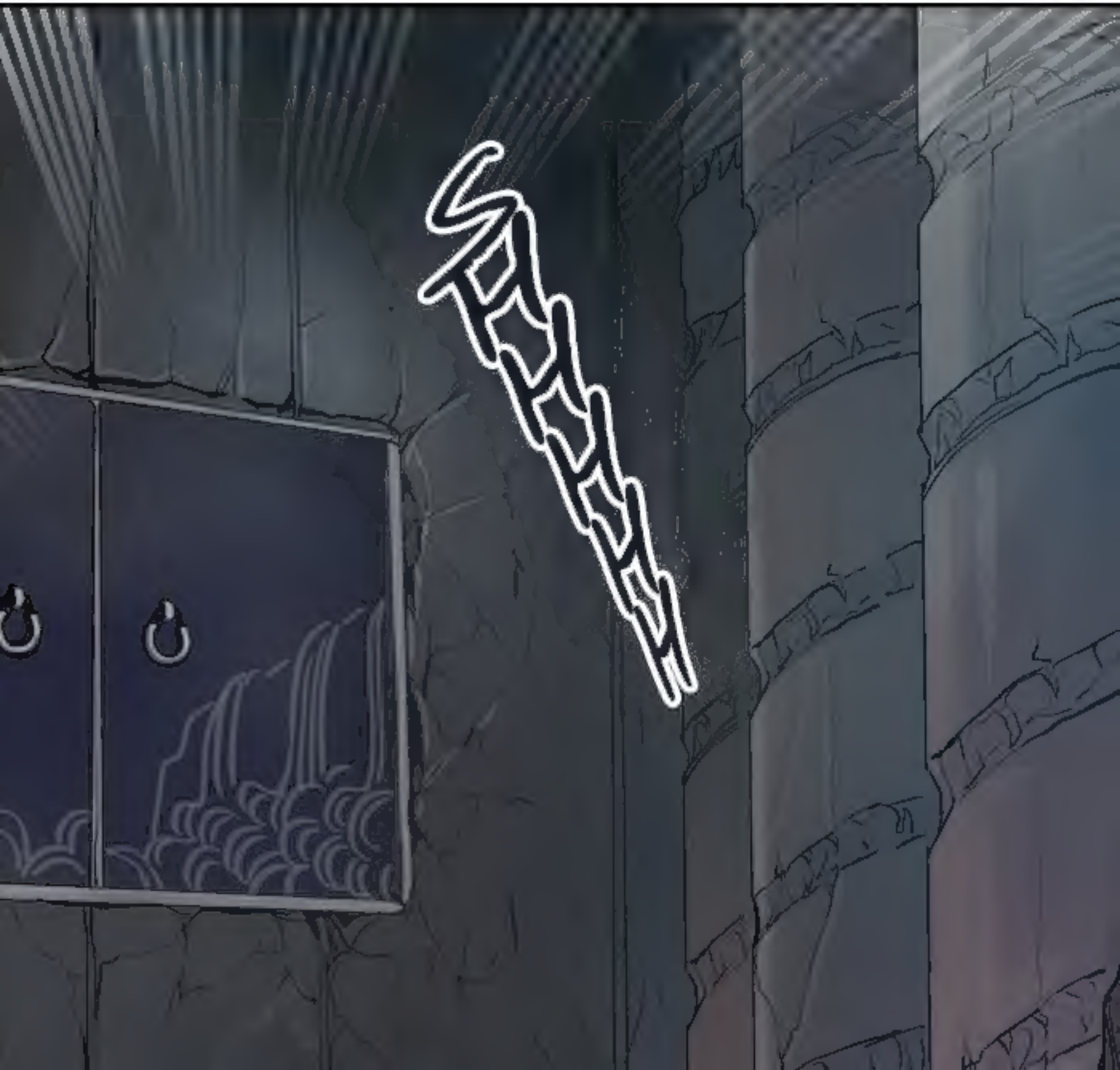
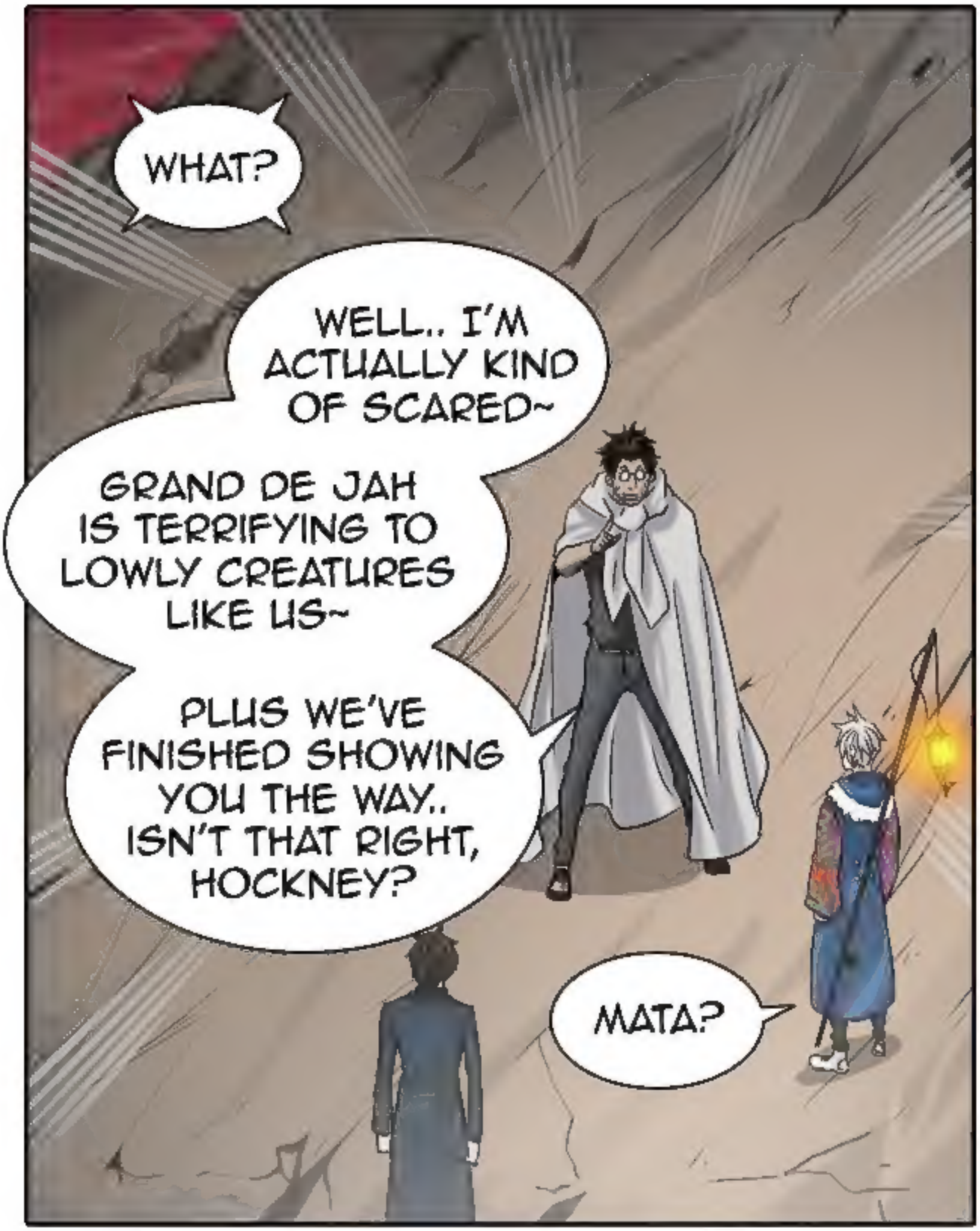
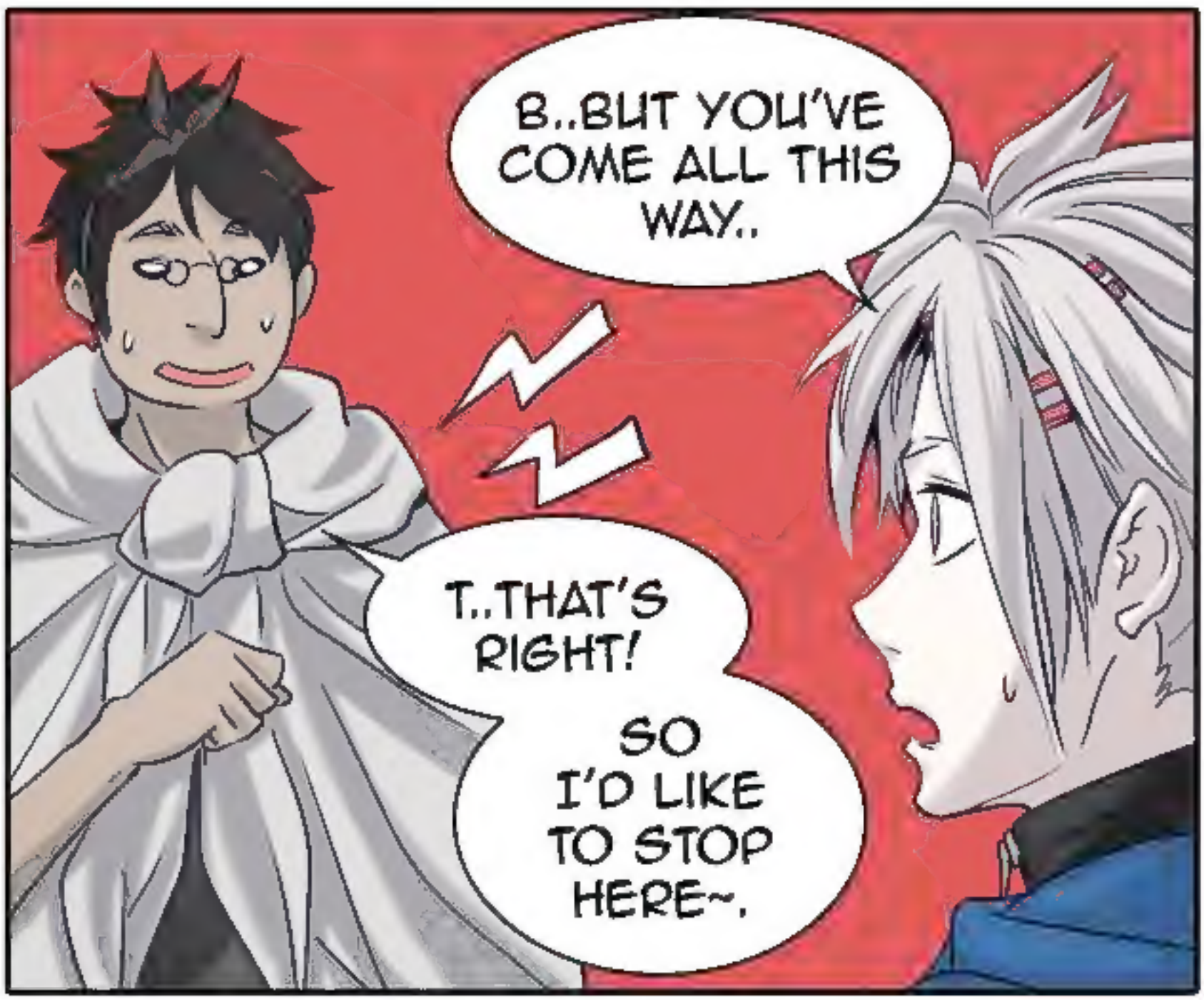


I CAN
SENSE IT...

THE THORN FRAGMENT...
IS DEFINITELY INSIDE THERE..!!

H..HEY!
?
C..CAN WE STAY BEHIND NOW?


WHAT?
WELL.. I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF SCARED~
GRAND DE JAH IS TERRIFYING TO LOWLY CREATURES LIKE US~
PLUS WE'VE FINISHED SHOWING YOU THE WAY.. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HOCKNEY?
MATA?


B..BUT YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY..
T..THAT'S RIGHT!
SO I'D LIKE TO STOP HERE~.

...THIS PART UP AHEAD...
IS DEFINITELY GOING TO BE DANGEROUS, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU GUYS TO GO...
T..THAT'S RIGHT!!
MATA!! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

GIVE UP.
BAM.
?!

W...WHO IS THAT!?
HUFF—
HUFF—
SOON.. WHITE... AND KARAKA WILL BE HERE.

HUFF—
FORGET ABOUT...OBTAINING THE SECOND THORN FRAGMENT.
HUFF—
RA..

HUFF-
HUFF-
RACHEL...?!

Talse uzer story by Slave. In. Utero

Tower of God

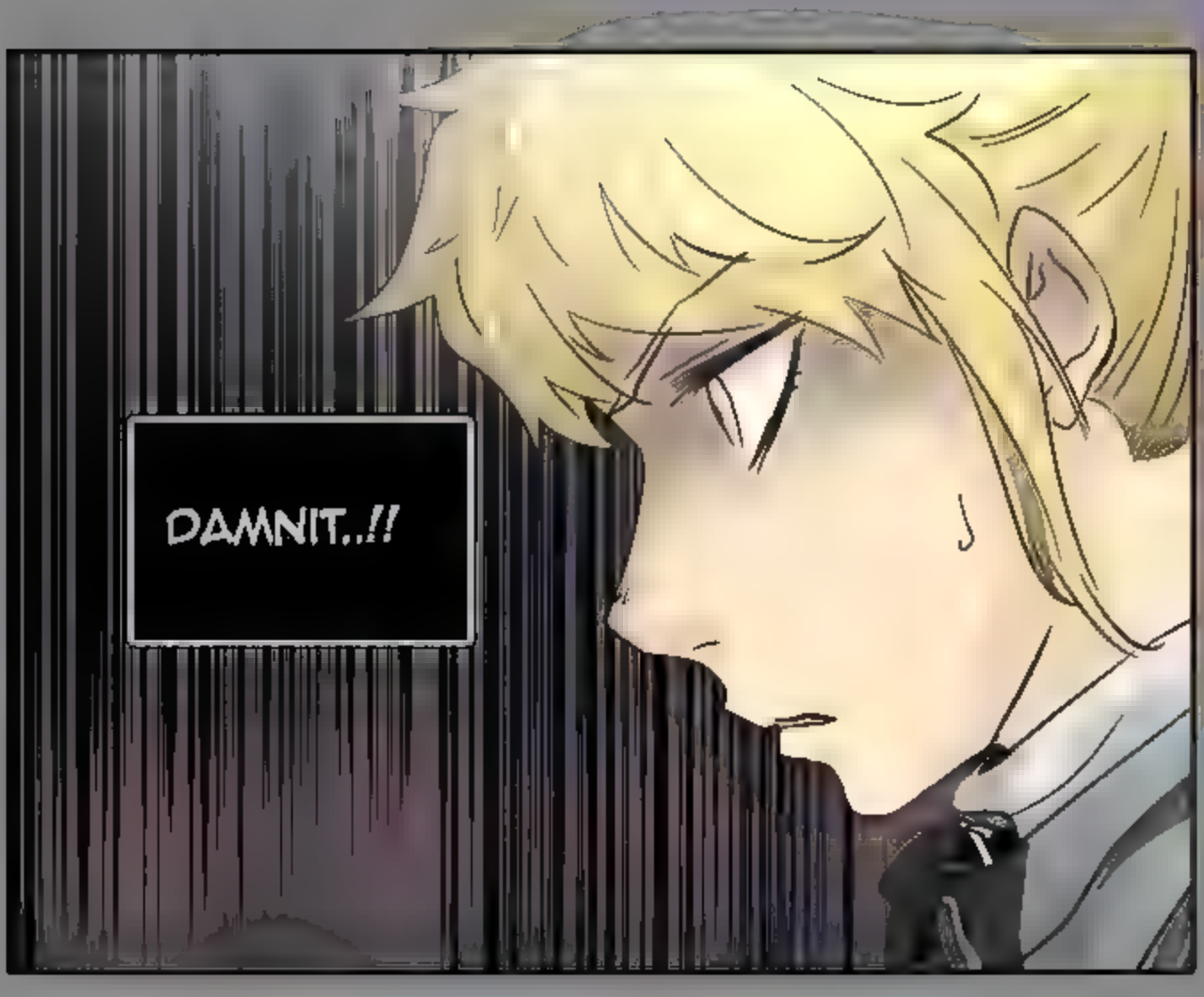
30 MINUTES
BEFORE
THE ARRIVAL OF
YURI JAHAD

HELL JOE'S
CASTLE

THIS IS THE PLACE.
IF YOU HEAD INSIDE HERE, YOU'LL FIND A PATH THAT LEADS INTO THE SPIRIT ROOM.
KRRRR
KRRRRR

FOLLOW ME.
KRRRRRR
STEP
STEP
STEP

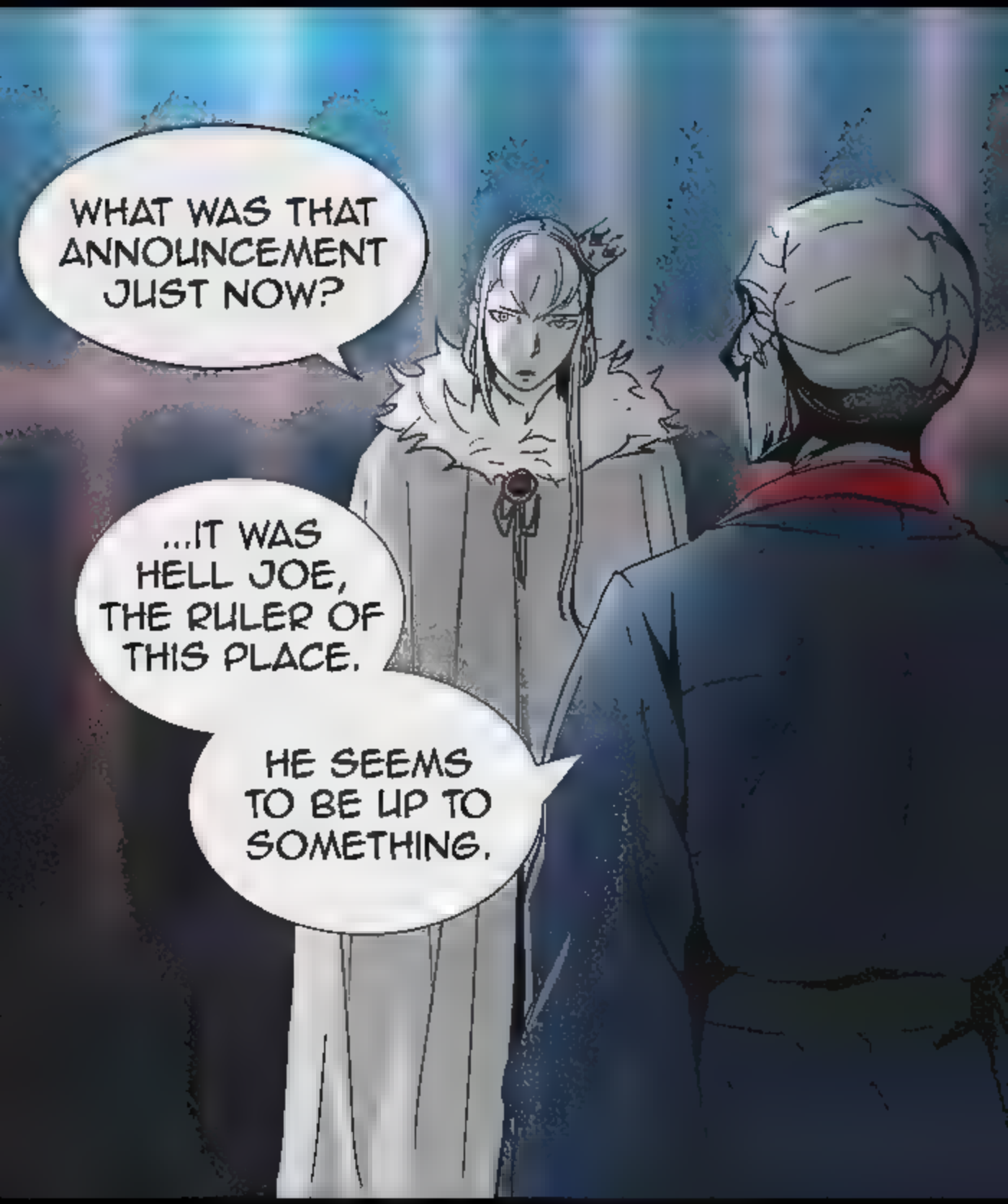
RUMBLE
STEP
DRRRR-
STEP


DAMNIT..!!

HOW DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS..!?

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF YURI JAHAD

INSIDE
HELL JOE'S
CASTLE
SO
THE THING THAT
THE INTRUDERS
ARE AFTER IS
IN HERE...?


WHAT WAS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT JUST NOW?
...IT WAS HELL JOE, THE RULER OF THIS PLACE.
HE SEEMS TO BE UP TO SOMETHING.

HELL JOE...
WHY WOULD HE MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT LIKE THAT?
HM...
JUDGING FROM HIS REACTION BEFORE, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE HAS THE THORN FRAGMENT...
IS HE PLANNING ON LYING TO DRAW THEM IN AND THEN FINISH THEM OFF?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. FOR NOW, YOUR REVIVAL MUST COME FIRST, WHITE.
COME WITH ME.
...RIGHT.

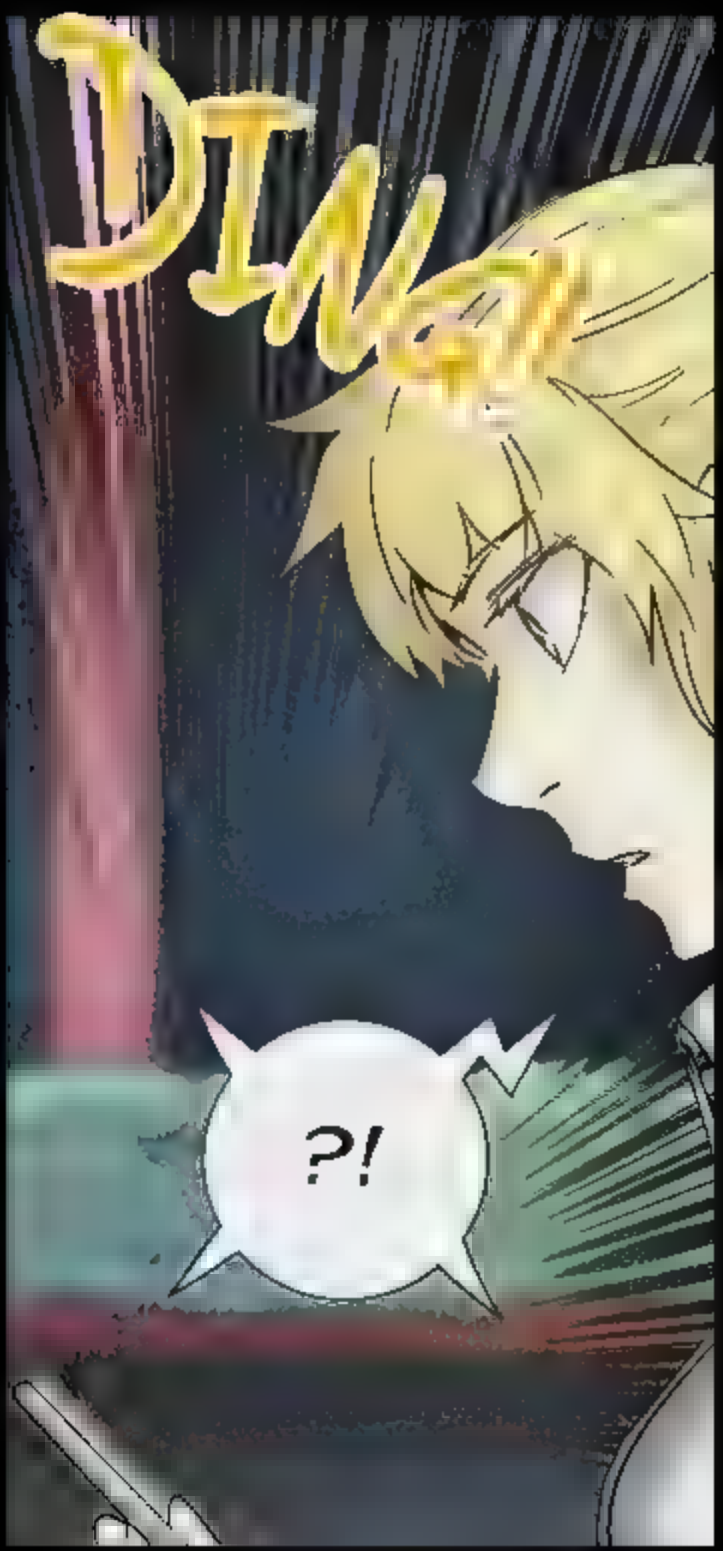
HURRY UP AND LEAD THE WAY.
TO THAT SPIRIT ROOM OR WHATEVER-
I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ME BACK IN MY ULTIMATE FORM!!
...SURE.

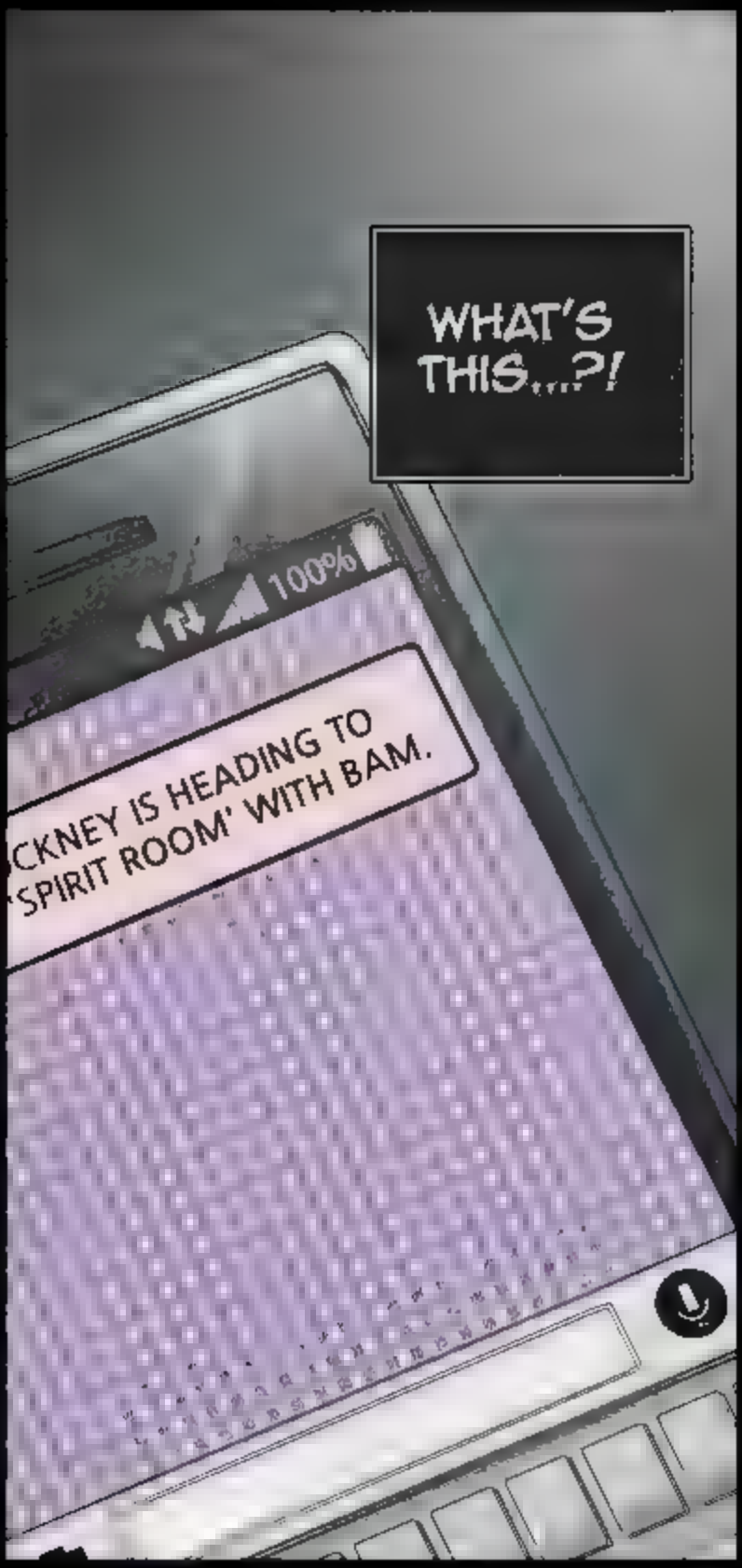
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER OR NOT HELL JOE HAS THE THORN FRAGMENT.

BECAUSE WHILE YOU GUYS ARE FIGHTING-

I'M GOING TO TAKE OVER YOUR SOULS.

THE THORN FRAGMENT IS HERE..?
REALLY?
...I WONDER.
IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE HE'S SETTING A TRAP..


DING!
?!


WHAT'S THIS...?!
100%
CKNEY IS HEADING TO
SPIRIT ROOM' WITH BAM.

HOCKNEY IS HEADING TO THE 'SPIRIT ROOM' WITH BAM.
THE SPIRIT ROOM...?

THE SPIRIT ROOM..!
WE HAVE TO GO THERE!!
?
WHAT..?!

HOCKNEY IS GOING TO THE SPIRIT ROOM!!
BAM MUST BE WITH HIM!! WHICH MEANS THE THORN FRAGMENT MUST ALSO BE THERE!!
B..BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT PLACE IS.

WE HAVE TO FIND OUT AT ALL COSTS!!
BAM MUST BE IN THE SPIRIT ROOM..!!
STEP—
STEP—
HMM— WHAT WAS THAT?

JUE VIOLE GRACE IS IN THE SPIRIT ROOM?
!!

EXCELLENT.
GRIN-

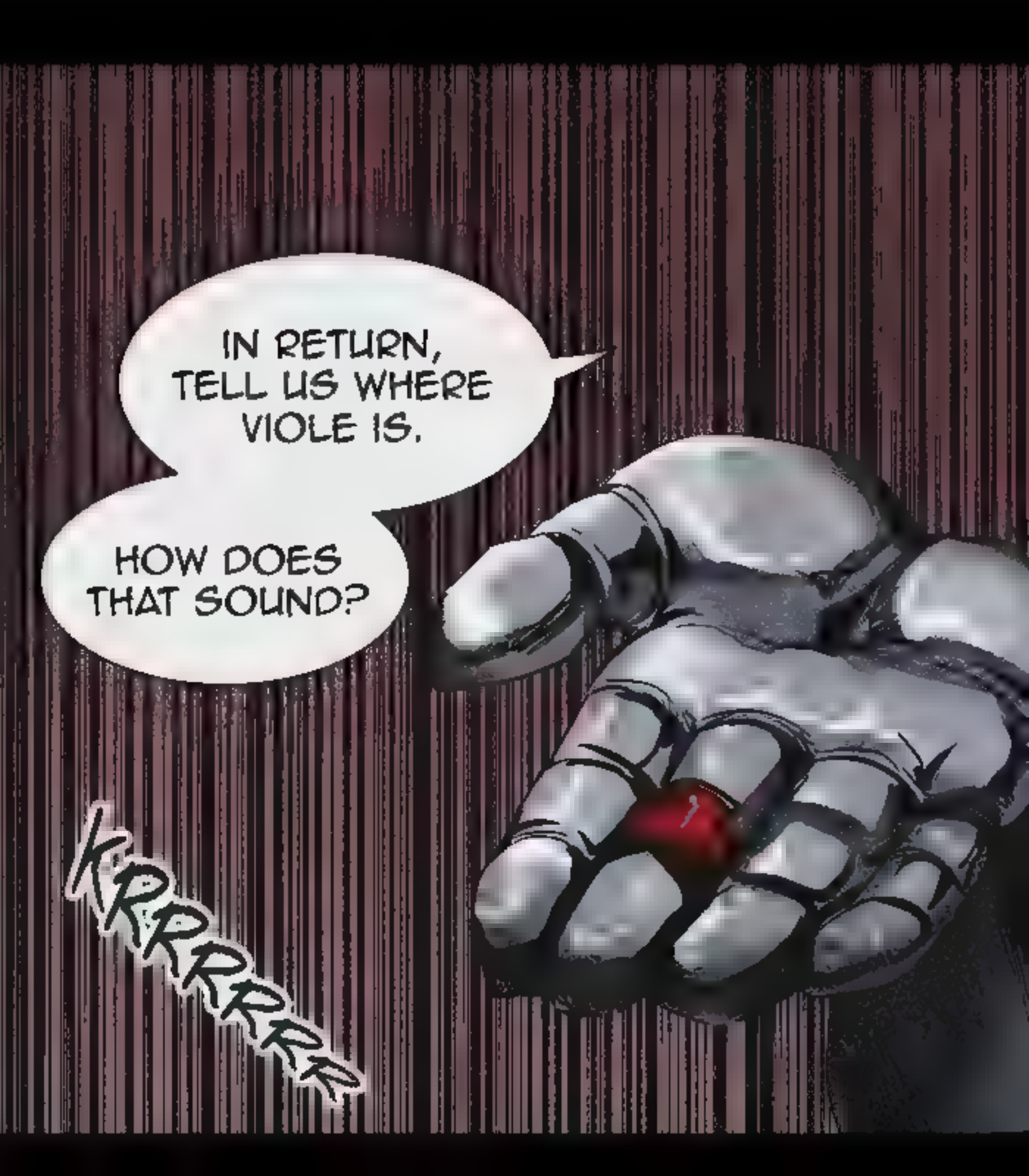
WHITE?
KARAKA. THERE'S A GOOD NEWS.
STEP—
STEP—
JUE VIOLE GRACE APPEARS TO BE IN THE SPIRIT ROOM THAT WE'RE HEADING TO.
?

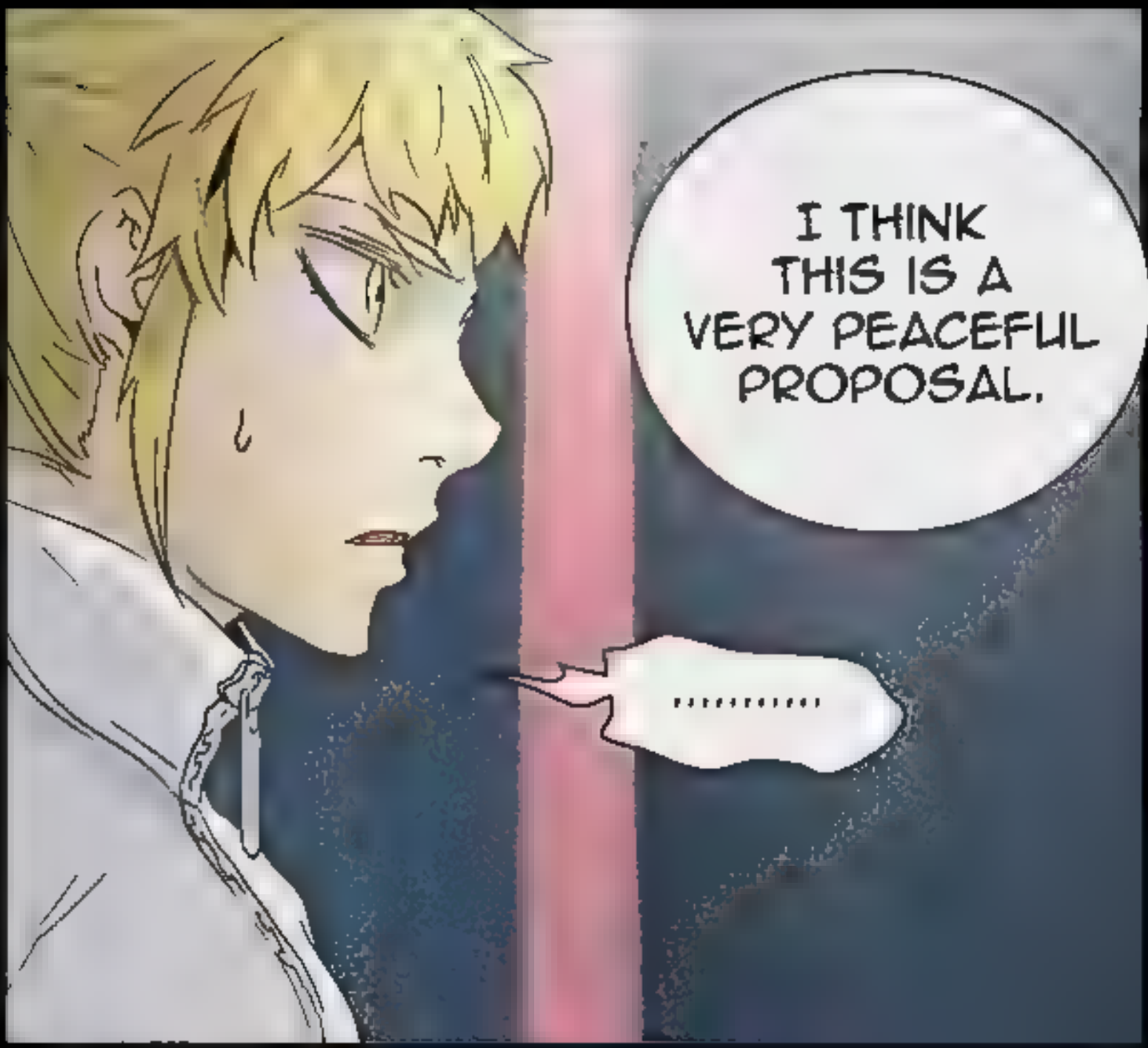
WHICH MEANS- AS SOON AS I RECOVER MY POWER,
I'LL BE ABLE TO WIPE THAT LITTLE BRAT OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!!
.....
HAHAHAHA-!!

.....HM.

BUT..
HOW DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHERE VIOLE IS HEADING?
...!

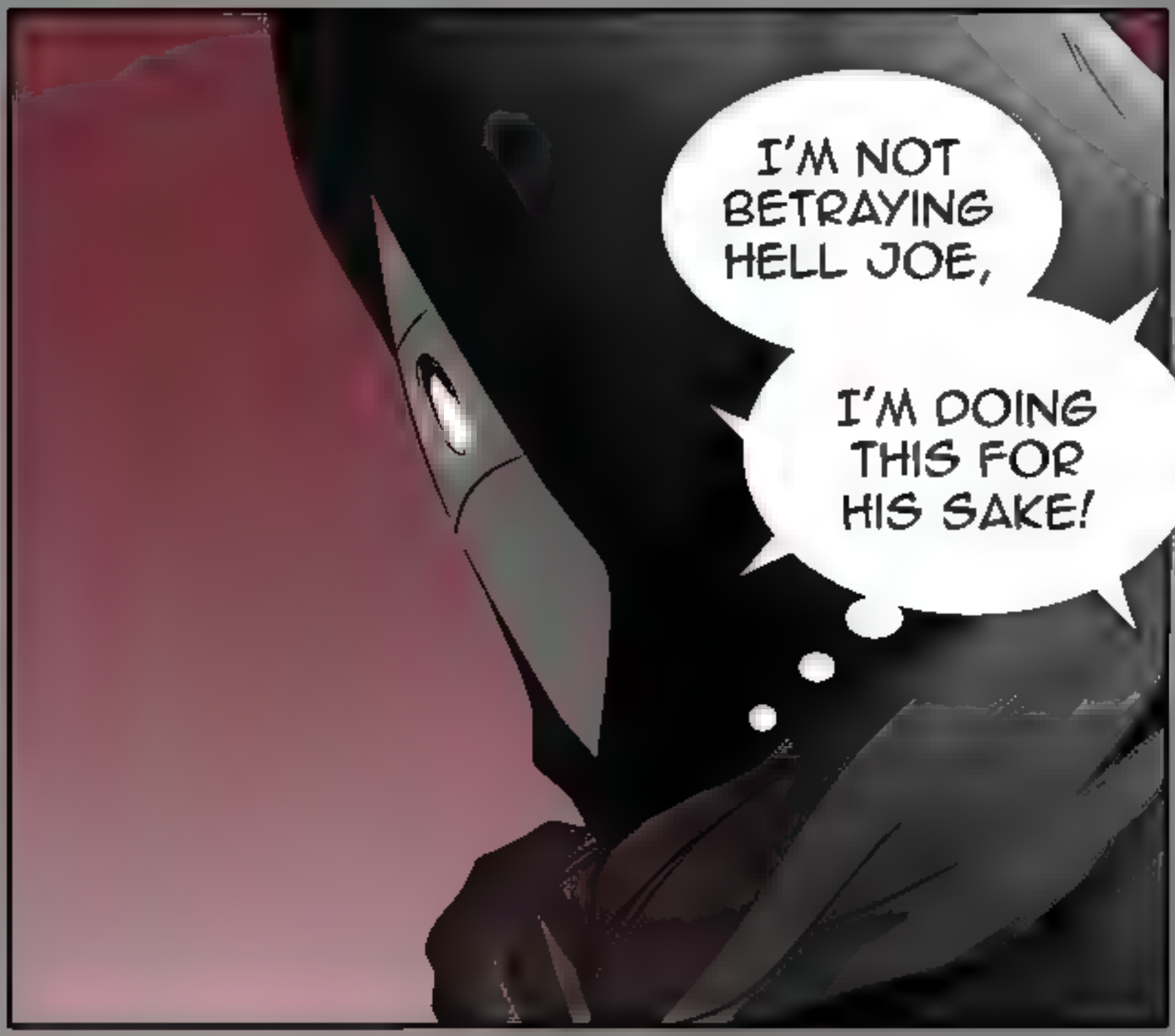
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.
WHAT..?!
I'M IN CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE EXECUTIVES OF THIS PLACE. HE KNOWS WHERE THE SPIRIT ROOM IS.
IF YOU GUYS WANT TO GO TO THE SPIRIT ROOM, WE'LL TAKE YOU WITH US.

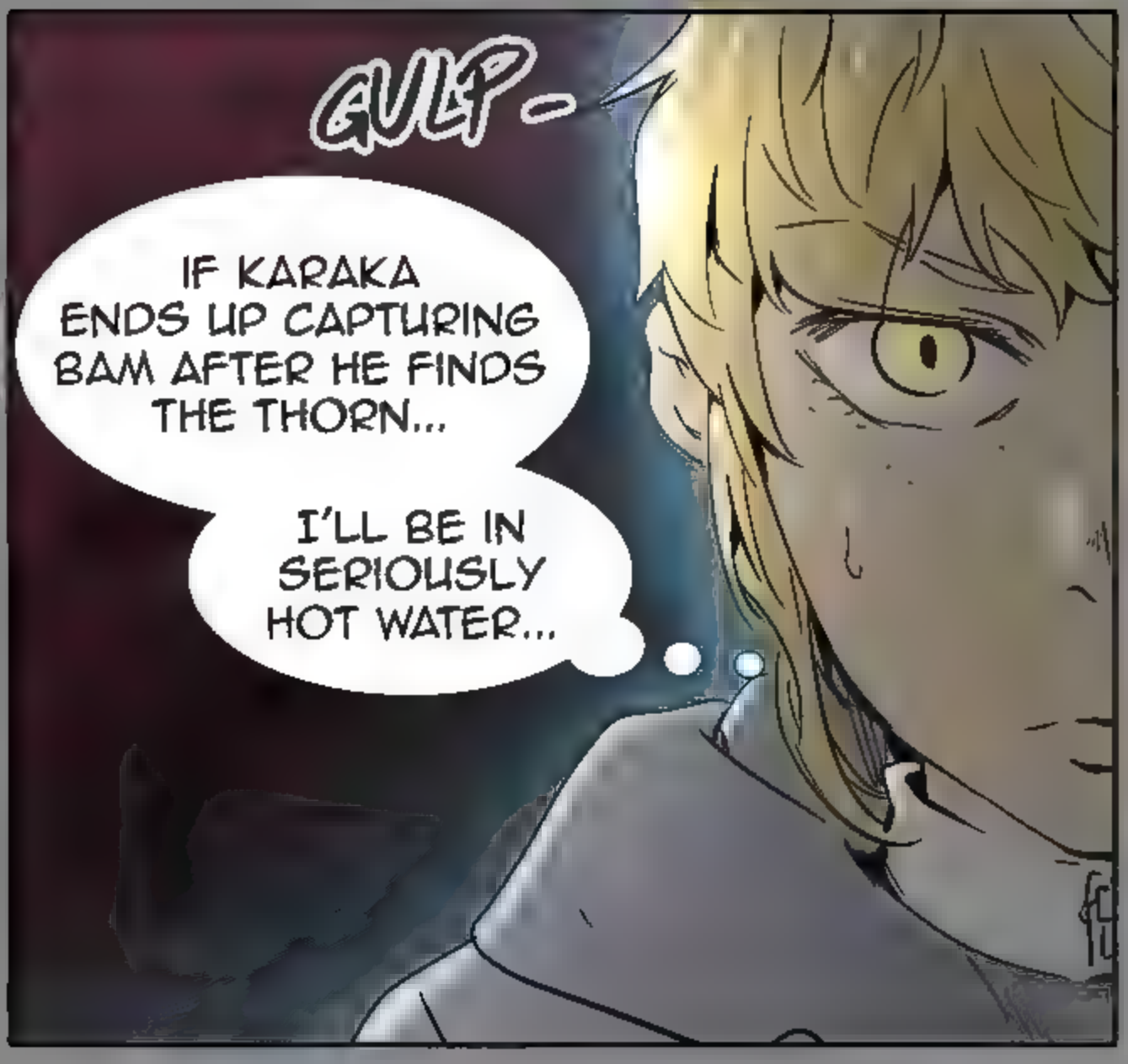

IN RETURN, TELL US WHERE VIOLE IS.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
KRRRRRRR


I THINK THIS IS A VERY PEACEFUL PROPOSAL.
.....

ALRIGHT.
10 MINUTES
BEFORE
THE ARRIVAL OF
YURI JAHAD

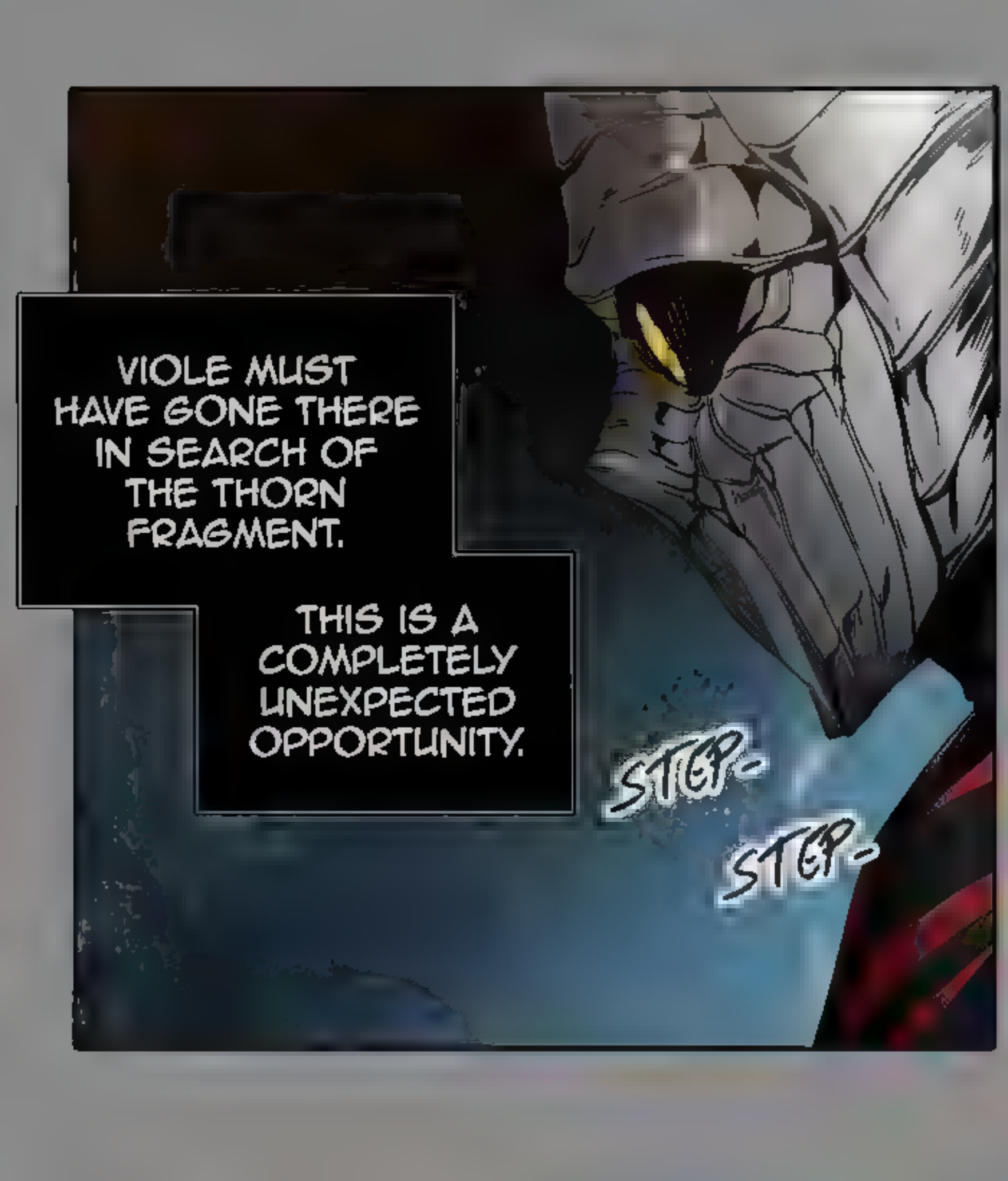
PASSAGE TO THE NORTH CITY
I FEEL BAD LEAVING THE CASTLE AT A TIME LIKE THIS..
BUT THESE GUYS SAID THEY WOULD TELL ME HOW TO GET OUT OF HERE
IF I SHOW THEM THE WAY...


I'M NOT BETRAYING HELL JOE,
I'M DOING THIS FOR HIS SAKE!


GULP -
IF KARAKA ENDS UP CAPTURING BAM AFTER HE FINDS THE THORN...
I'LL BE IN SERIOUSLY HOT WATER...

I HAVE TO GET TO BAM BEFORE THESE GUYS AND MAKE HIM RUN AWAY..!

AT LEAST IF EMILY RECEIVES HOCKNEY'S SIGNAL..!


VIOLE MUST HAVE GONE THERE IN SEARCH OF THE THORN FRAGMENT.
THIS IS A COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY.
STEP-
STEP-

THIS IS
MY CHANCE TO
GET BOTH HIM
AND THE THORN
AT ONCE.

IT'S THIS WAY.
THE PATH GETS COMPLICATED STARTING HERE SO FOLLOW ME CAREFULLY.
KRRRRRRR—
KRRRR—

DING!
!!

EMILY RECEIVED HOCKNEY'S SIGNAL!!
?

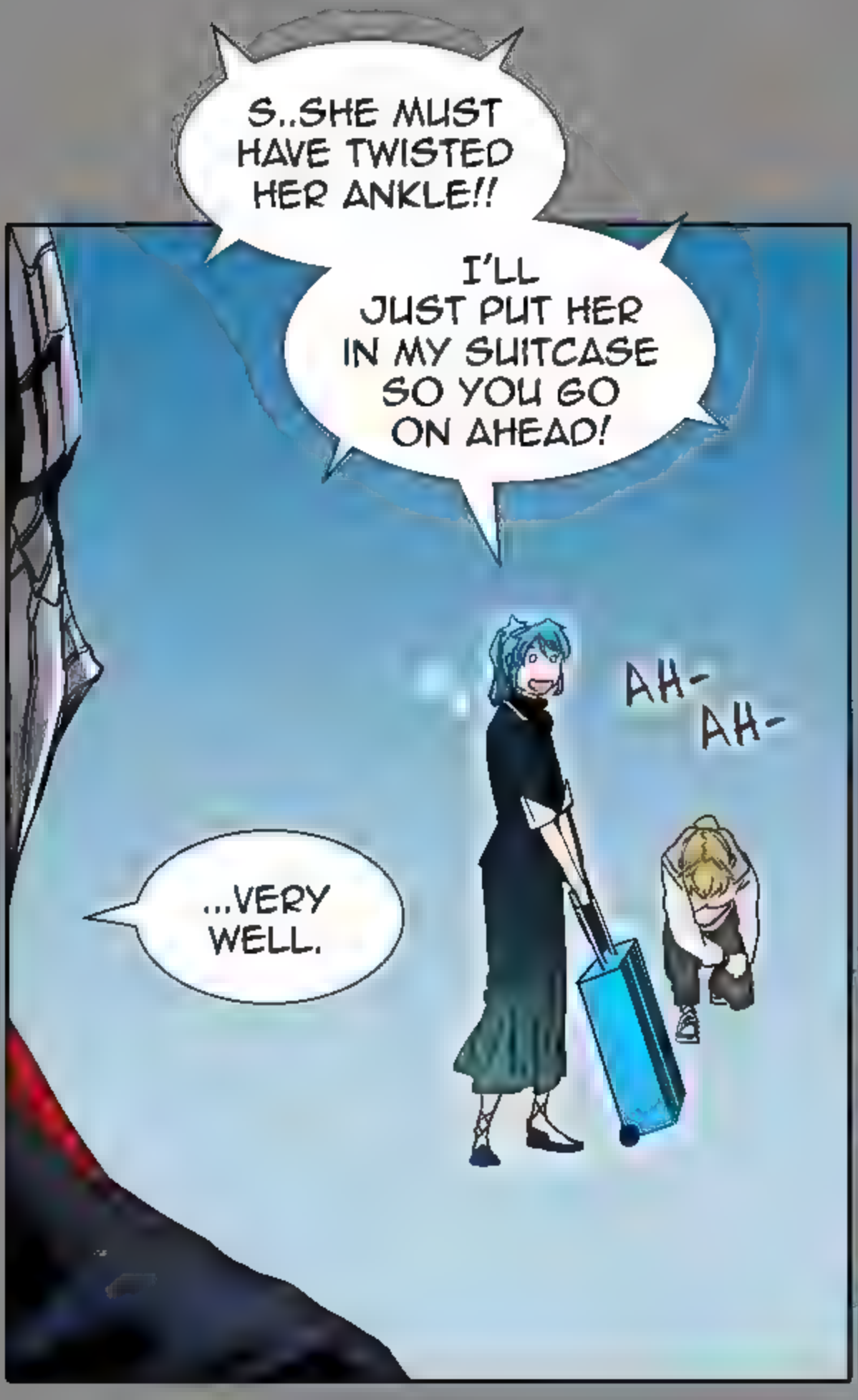
ssk
!

NOD-

AGH-!!
CRASH

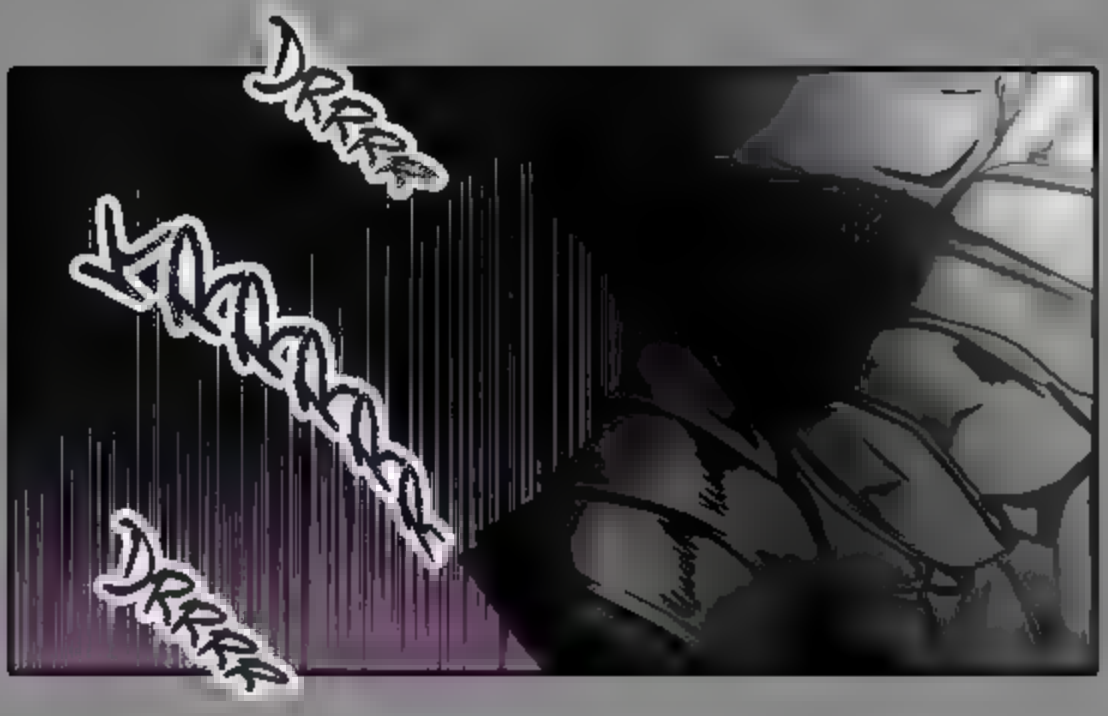
?!
THUD-!!

...WHAT'S GOING ON?
OUCH-


S..SHE MUST HAVE TWISTED HER ANKLE!!
I'LL JUST PUT HER IN MY SUITCASE SO YOU GO ON AHEAD!
AH- AH-
...VERY WELL.

WE'VE WASTED TIME FOR NOTHING.

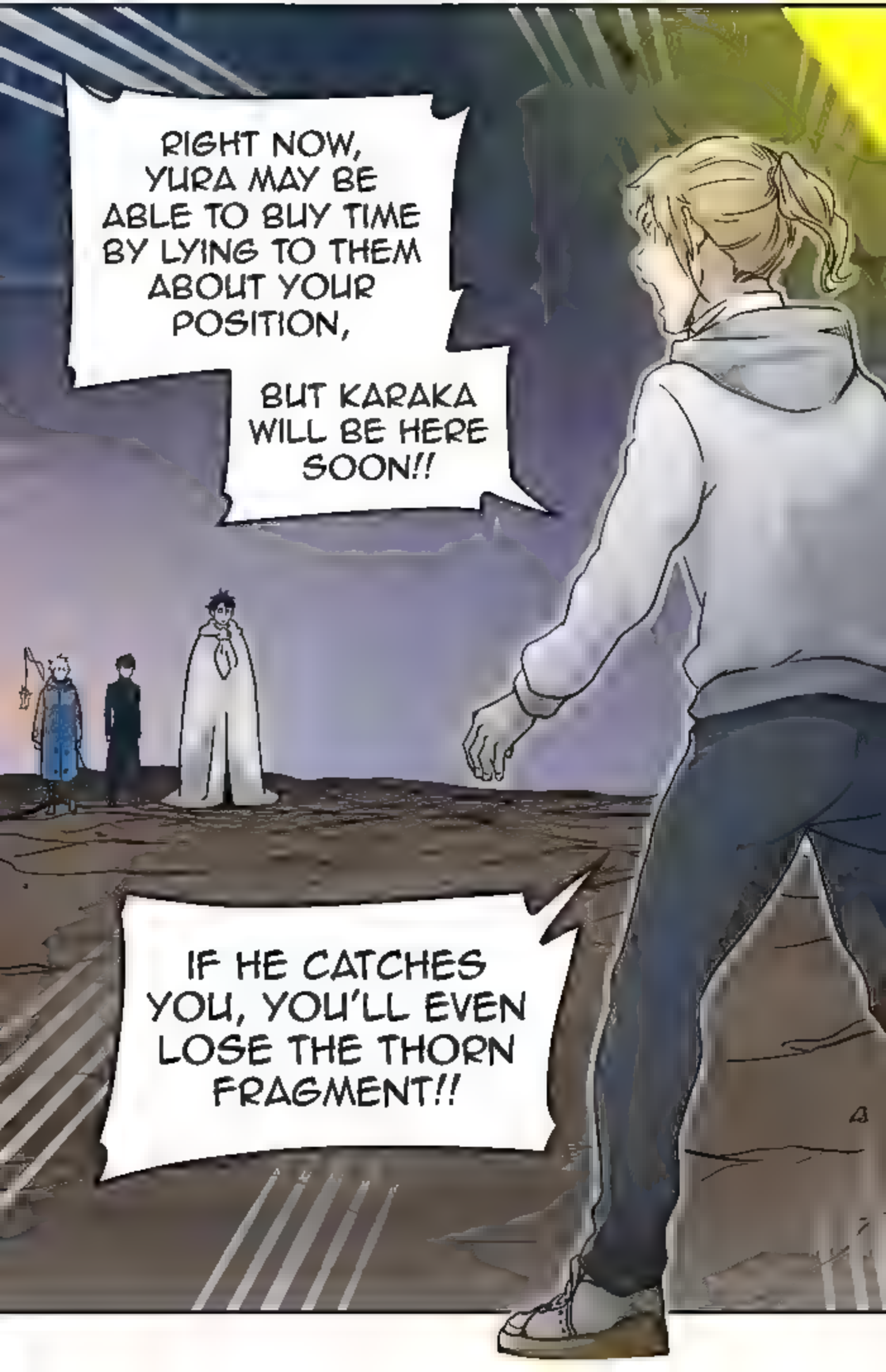
RACHEL?
DRRRR


DRRRR
DRRRR

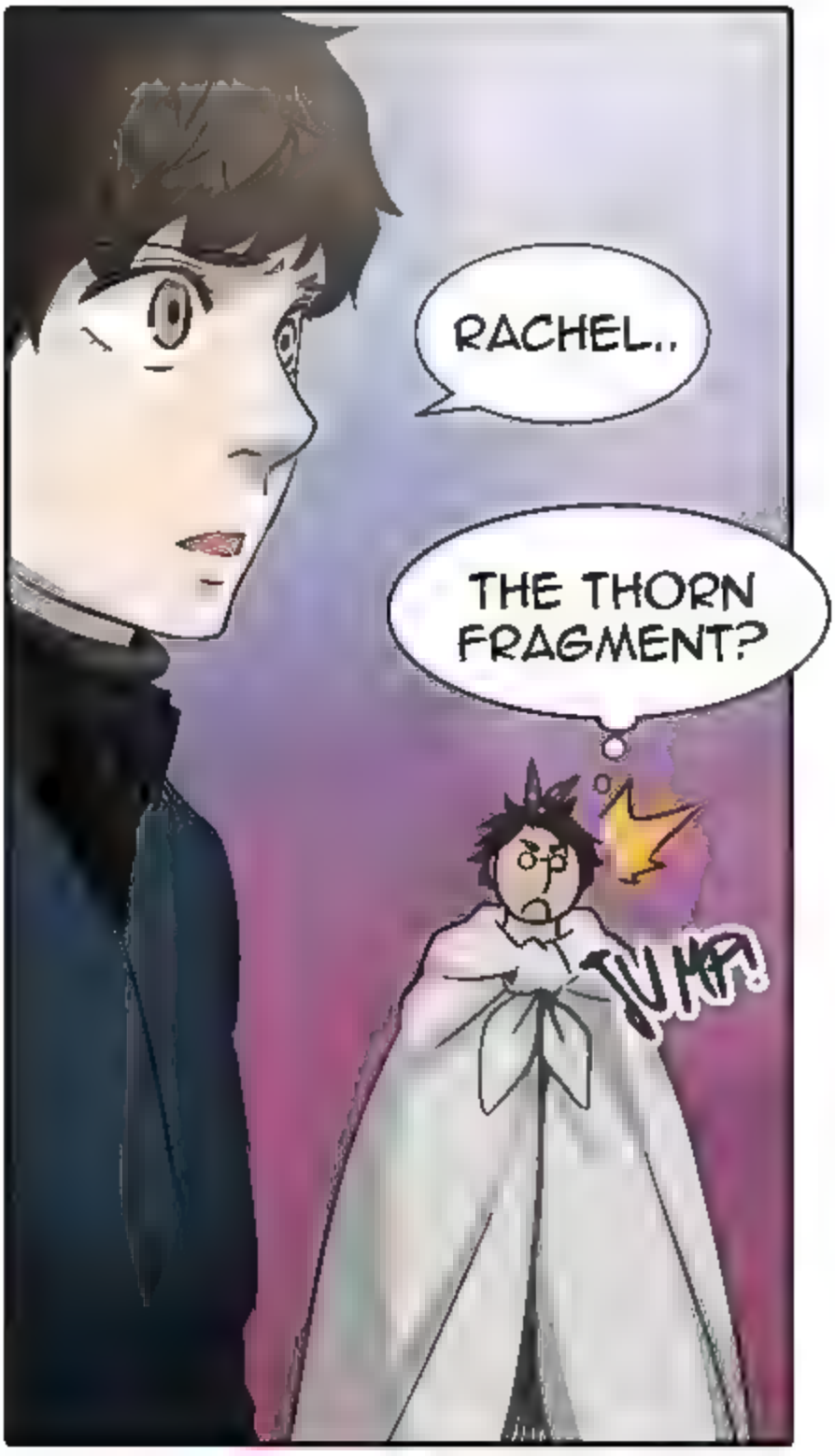
HUFF-
HUFF-
HURRY..!!
?

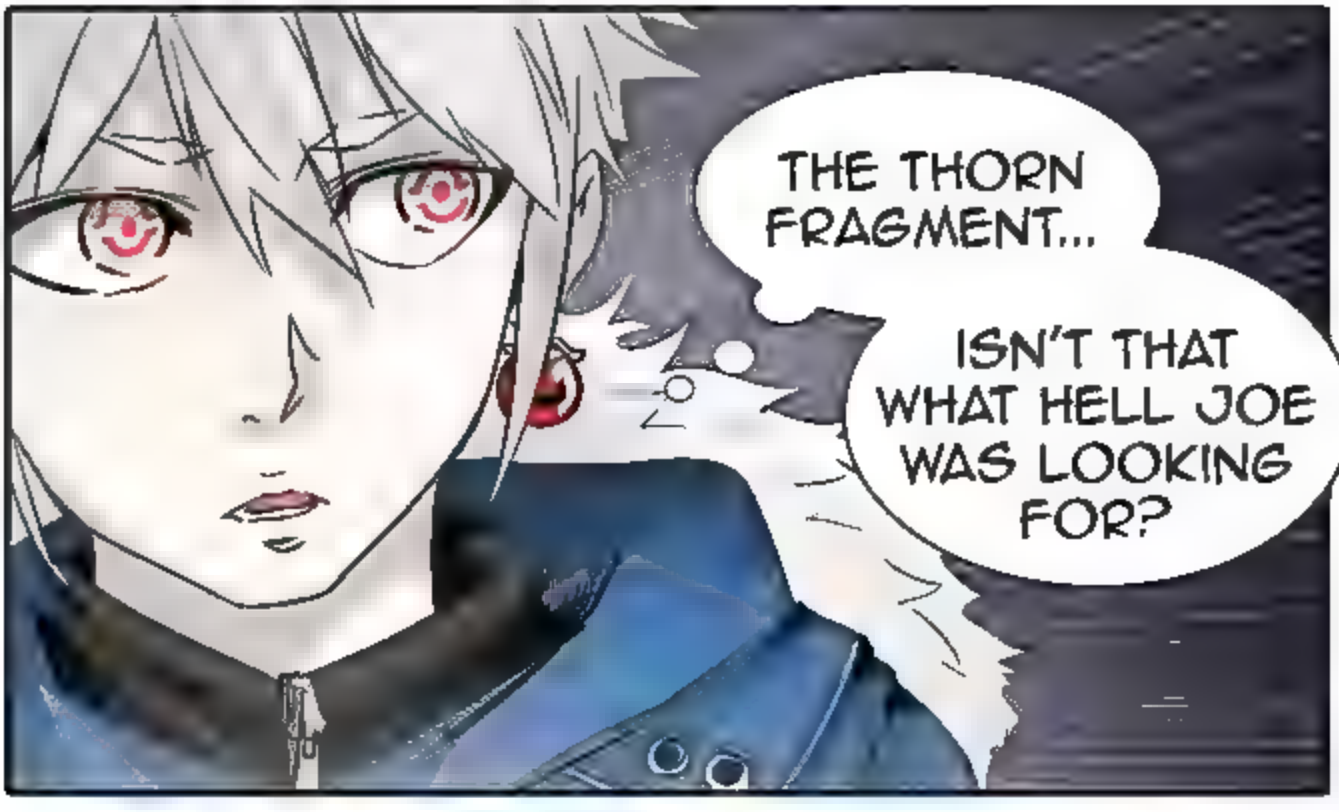
I CAN DO IT IF I CUT ACROSS!
I HAVE TO GET TO THE PLACE WHERE BAM IS BEFORE THOSE GUYS!!
HUFF-
HUFF-

THE PRESENT


RIGHT NOW, YURA MAY BE ABLE TO BUY TIME BY LYING TO THEM ABOUT YOUR POSITION,
BUT KARAKA WILL BE HERE SOON!!
IF HE CATCHES YOU, YOU'LL EVEN LOSE THE THORN FRAGMENT!!

IF YOU RETREAT FROM HERE, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THE THORN FRAGMENT!!
SO RUN AWAY!!


RACHEL..
THE THORN FRAGMENT?
HA!


THE THORN FRAGMENT...
ISN'T THAT WHAT HELL JOE WAS LOOKING FOR?

W..WHO IS THIS GIRL!?
DO YOU KNOW HER?
.....YES.

BAM!!
RACHEL..
I'M SURE THE REASON THAT SHE'S TELLING ME TO RUN AWAY..

IS NOT...
.....
BECAUSE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME.

RACHEL IS WORRIED THAT KARAKA WILL STEAL THE THORN.

BAM!!

THAT'S WHY SHE'S TRYING TO GET ME TO RUN AWAY..

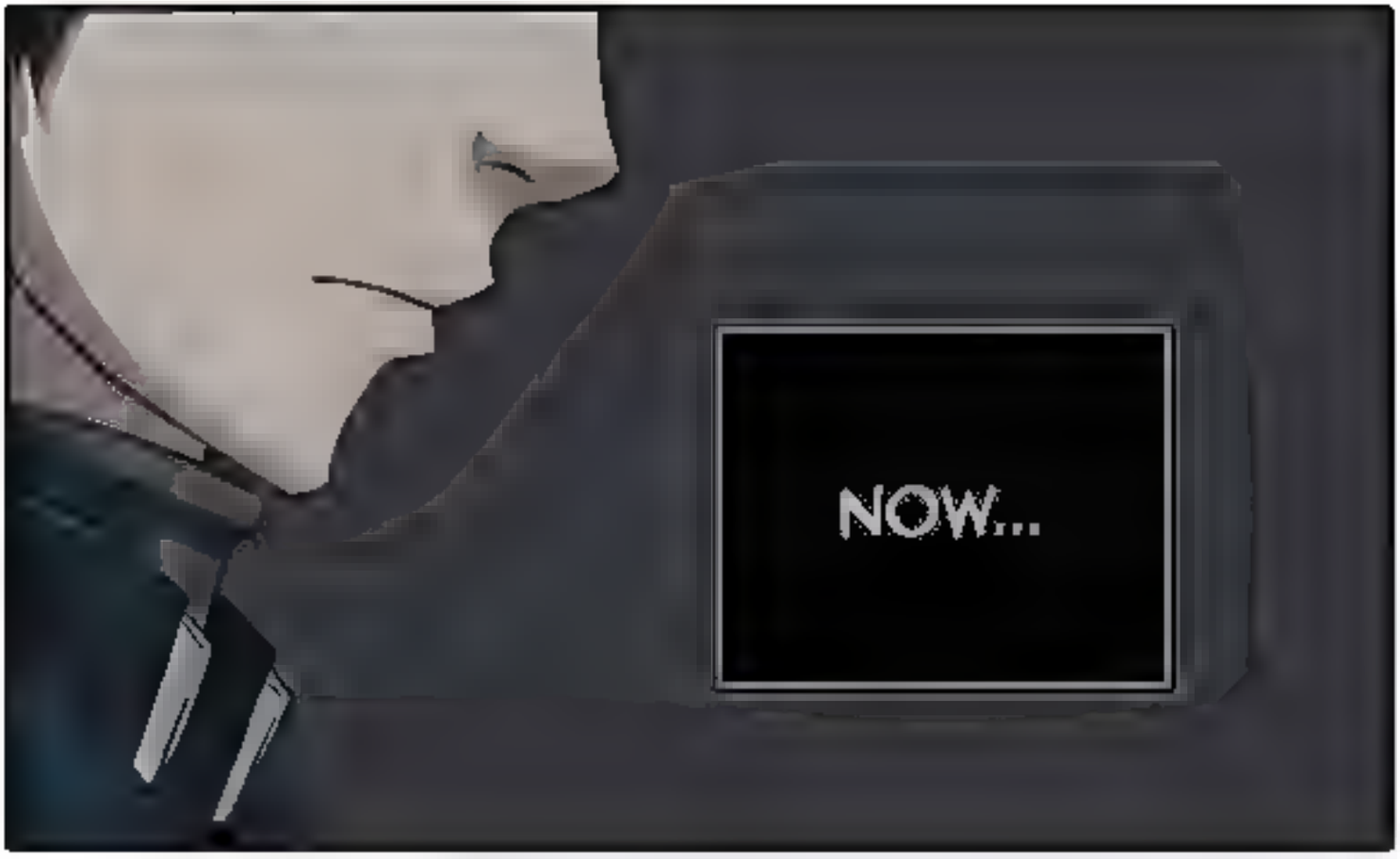
IF I DO AS RACHEL SAYS AND GIVE UP ON THE WHOLE THING,

WILL I BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE WAY THAT THINGS WERE BEFORE?

I WOULD BE SO HAPPY IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE.

WOULD YOU? RACHEL.

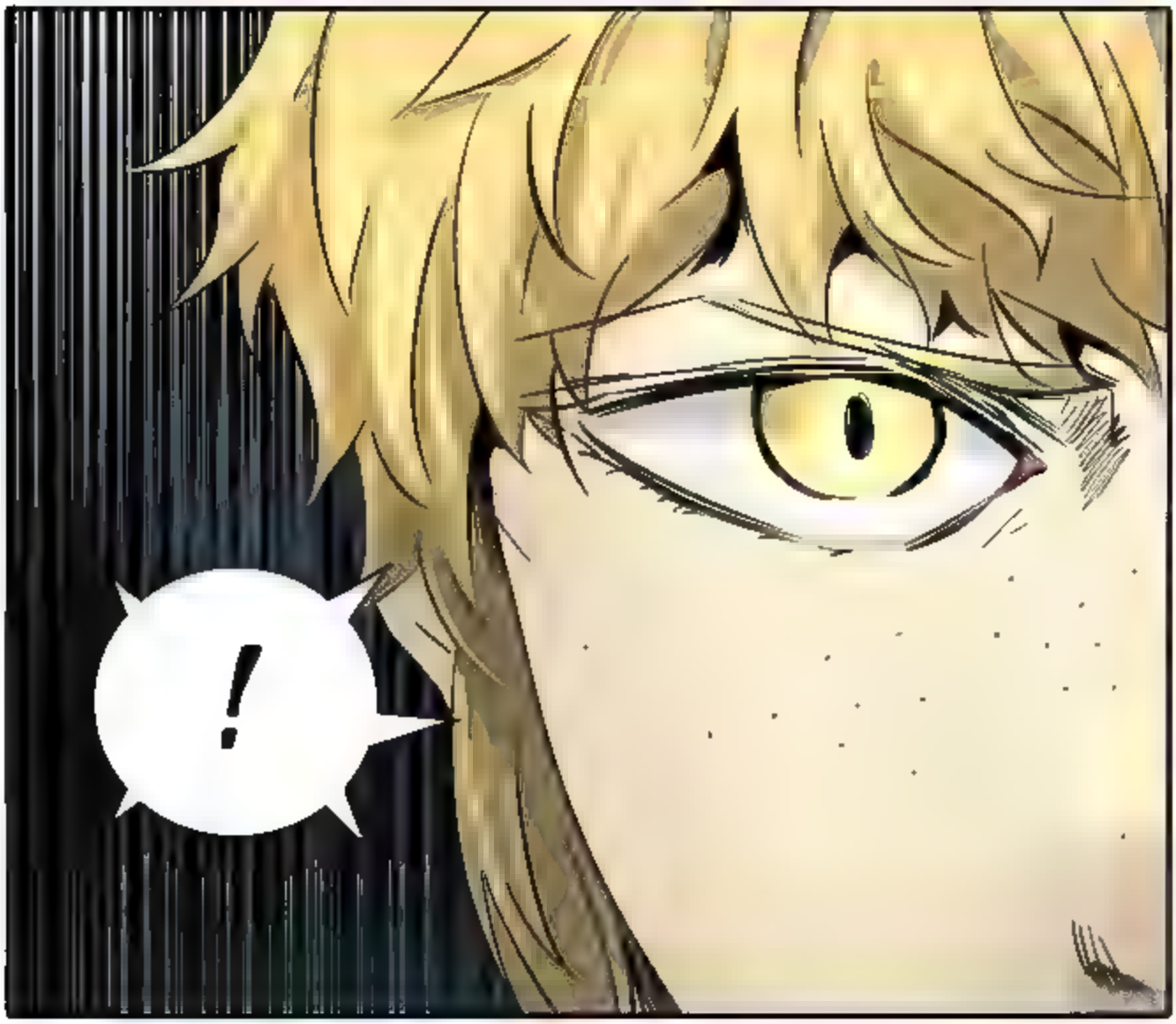
BUT RACHEL-


NOW...

I CAN NO LONGER GO BACK.
RACHEL.
I'M GOING.
?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
YOU'LL DIE!! JUST GIVE UP!!
NO.

THERE'S A REASON... THAT I HAVE TO GO.
SHHH—



WHAT...
REASON?

LET'S GO.
SSK-
H-HUH?!
SORRY TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS,
BUT THEY WON'T LET YOU GUYS GO IF THEY FIND US.

HUH!? B..BUT DE JAH IS IN THERE~!!
COME HERE!!
AAGHH!!
SHHH

WHOOSH

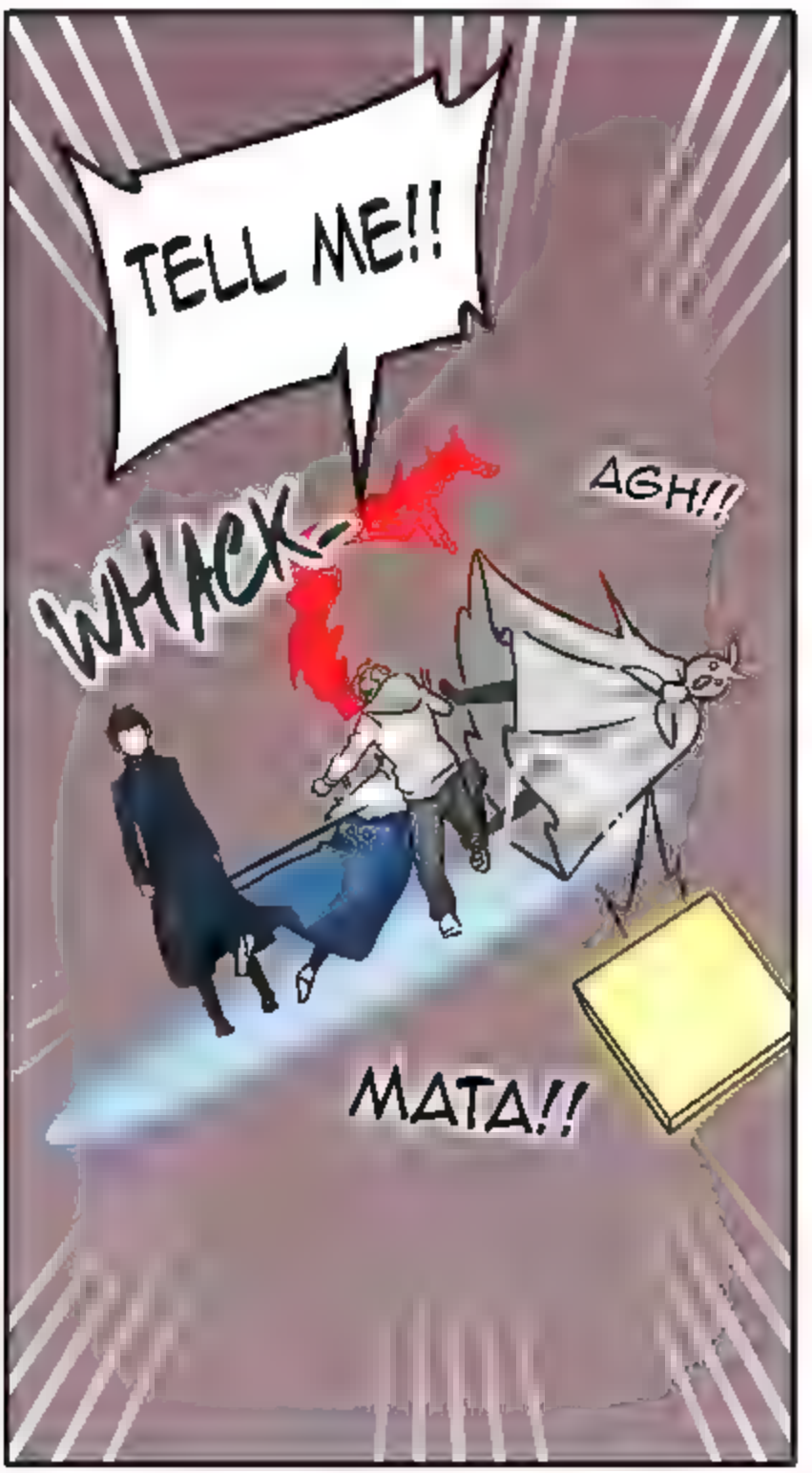
SNISH

I ASKED YOU WHAT THE REASON IS!! BAM!!

ASIMS
ii

SHHHH
TELL ME!!

YOU CAME HERE AND MET THE WATER-COLORED PRINCESS, DIDN'T YOU!?
WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU!?
SOOOOOSH


TELL ME!!
WHACK-
AGH!!
MATA!!

WHAT DID SHE SAY TO YOU?!
DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT...!!

...ARLENE GRACE.
!!

I HEARD ABOUT SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE MY MOTHER.
SHE SAID THAT SHE RAN AWAY FROM THE TOWER THINKING THAT THE PLACE WHERE WE WERE WAS PARADISE.
.....
BUT RACHEL.

THE PLACE WHERE WE WERE...
WASN'T REALLY PARADISE, WAS IT.....?

W..WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT PLACE...!?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU.
BUT I KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY DESPISE THAT PLACE.

THAT PLACE WAS LIKE PARADISE TO ME BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE..

BUT WHETHER IT'S HELL OR PARADISE- I CAN'T GO BACK THERE AGAIN.

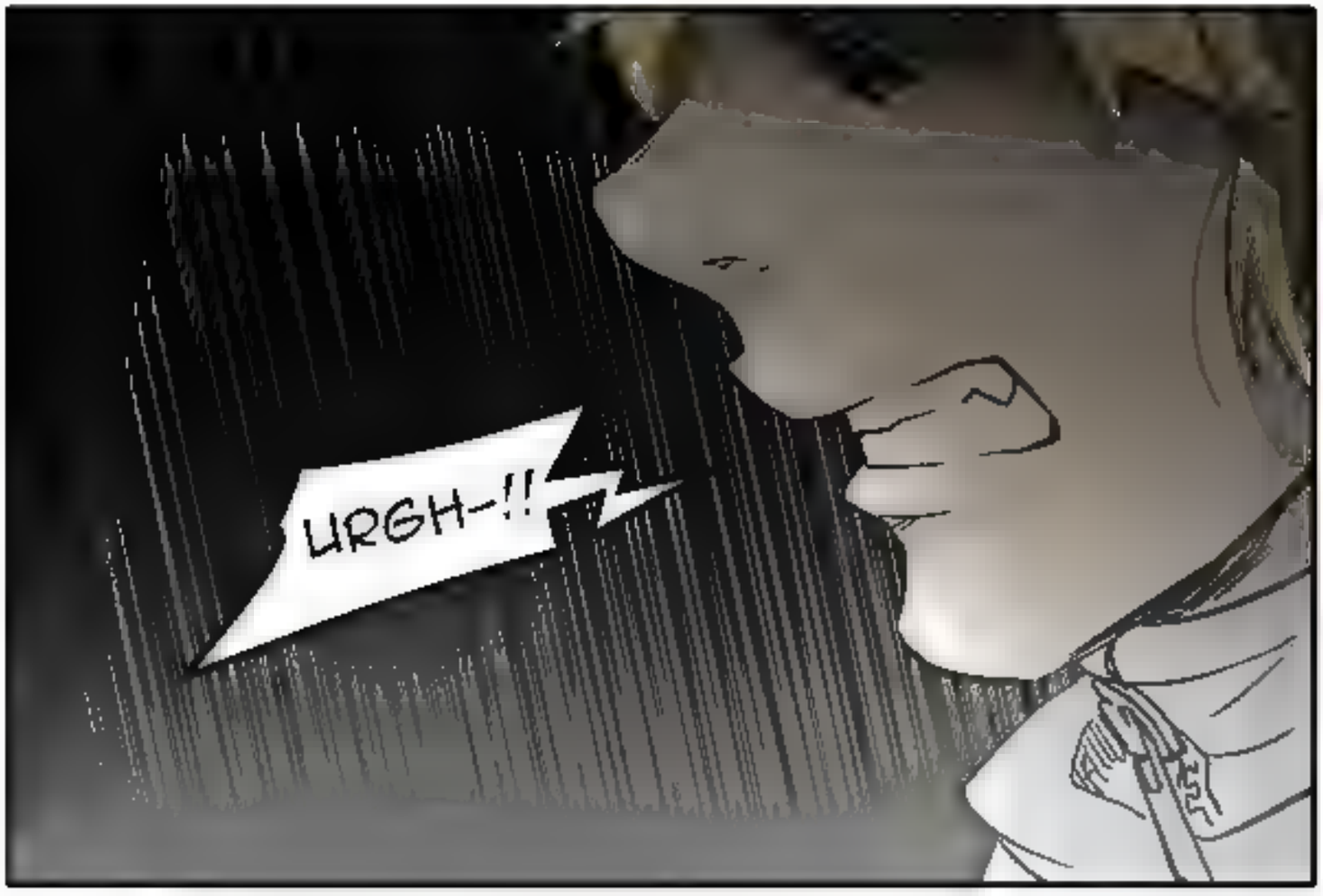
A REAL PARADISE-

THAT WILL MAKE EVERYONE IN THIS PLACE HAPPY-!!

AND ALONG THE WAY,
JAHAD, FUG AND THE TEN GREAT FAMILIES-
FLASH-
FLASH-
ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY IS NOTHING BUT AN ENEMY.

I'M NOT GOING BACK ANYMORE. RACHEL.
FLUSH-
.....
I'M GOING TO GATHER ALL OF THE THORN FRAGMENTS, CLIMB THE TOWER,
GET THE KEY AND THEN OPEN THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE FINAL FLOOR ON THIS TOWER.

BECAUSE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ON THE OTHER SIDE.
STEP.
STEP.


URGH-!!

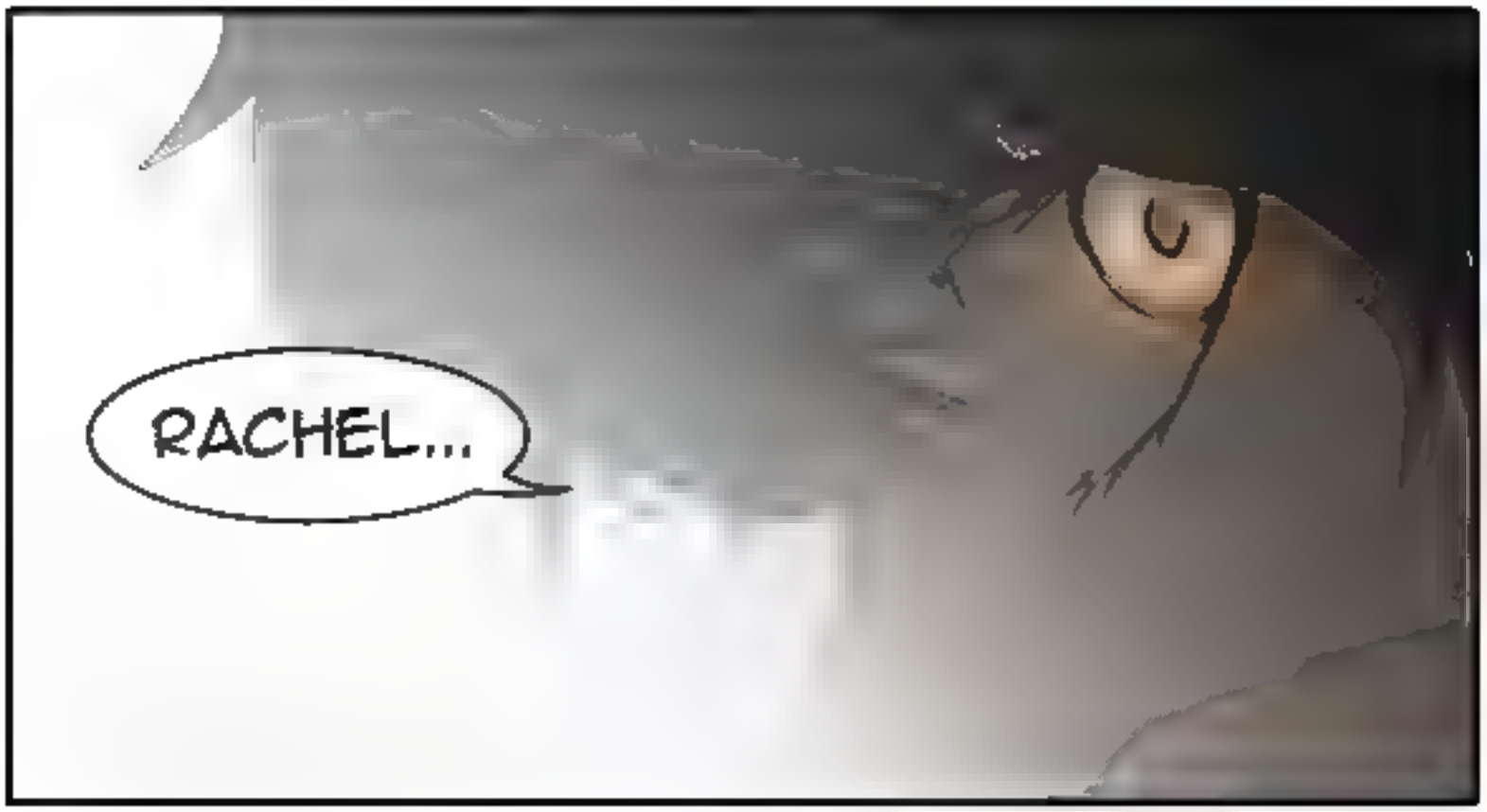
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!!

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING!?

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF HERO!? STOP TRYING TO SHOW OFF!!

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A WORLD THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!

JUST GIVE UP!!
STAY IN THAT PLACE
AND WAIT FOR ME
LIKE BEFORE!!
IT'S MINE!!
FOR AGES
I'VE-!!


RACHEL...

GOODBYE.
!!

DAMNED
DESTINY..!!

A...ARE YOU OKAY?
THAT GIRL SAID SOME PRETTY EXTREME STUFF BEFORE... ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LEAVE HER..?

YEAH..

STEP-
H...HE WAS CRYING.
.....
STEP...

FLA

ЧИН?!

MY NAME IS GRAND DE JAH-

WHAT PURPOSE HAS BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE?

YOU INTRUDERS-

EX-LORD OF NORTH CITY
GRAND DE JAH
KRRRRRR
CURRENT LORD OF NORTH CITY
GRAND DE LEE

LORD D.. DE JAH!!
W..WELL, YOU SEE-!!
I..!
I CAME IN HERE IN ORDER TO FIND THE THORN FRAGMENT LEFT BEHIND BY ENRYU!!

WHAT?! THE THORN FRAGMENT?
WAIT!! DO YOU WORK FOR JOE!?
N..NO..!! I-!!

?!

WHAT'S THIS FEELING..?

YOU'RE BACK!!
MY EYES!!
?
...WHAT?

GRAND DE LEE. I TOLD YOU THEY WERE COMING, DIDN'T I!?
I TOLD YOU MY EYES WOULD DELIVER MY MESSAGE AND BRING US A SAVIOR!!
HAHAHA
HOW COULD YOU NOT EVEN RECOGNIZE MY EYES!?
...?
SORRY, LORD DE JAH..

VERY WELL!!
YOU STRANGER WHO HAS COME HERE WITH MY EYES,
YOU ARE WORTHY!! I WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE THE TEST!!

R..
REALLY?!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! YOU MUST BE WORTHY IF YOU CAME HERE WITH MY EYES!!
SO I WILL LET YOU TAKE THE TEST!!

YOUR EYES..
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
.....

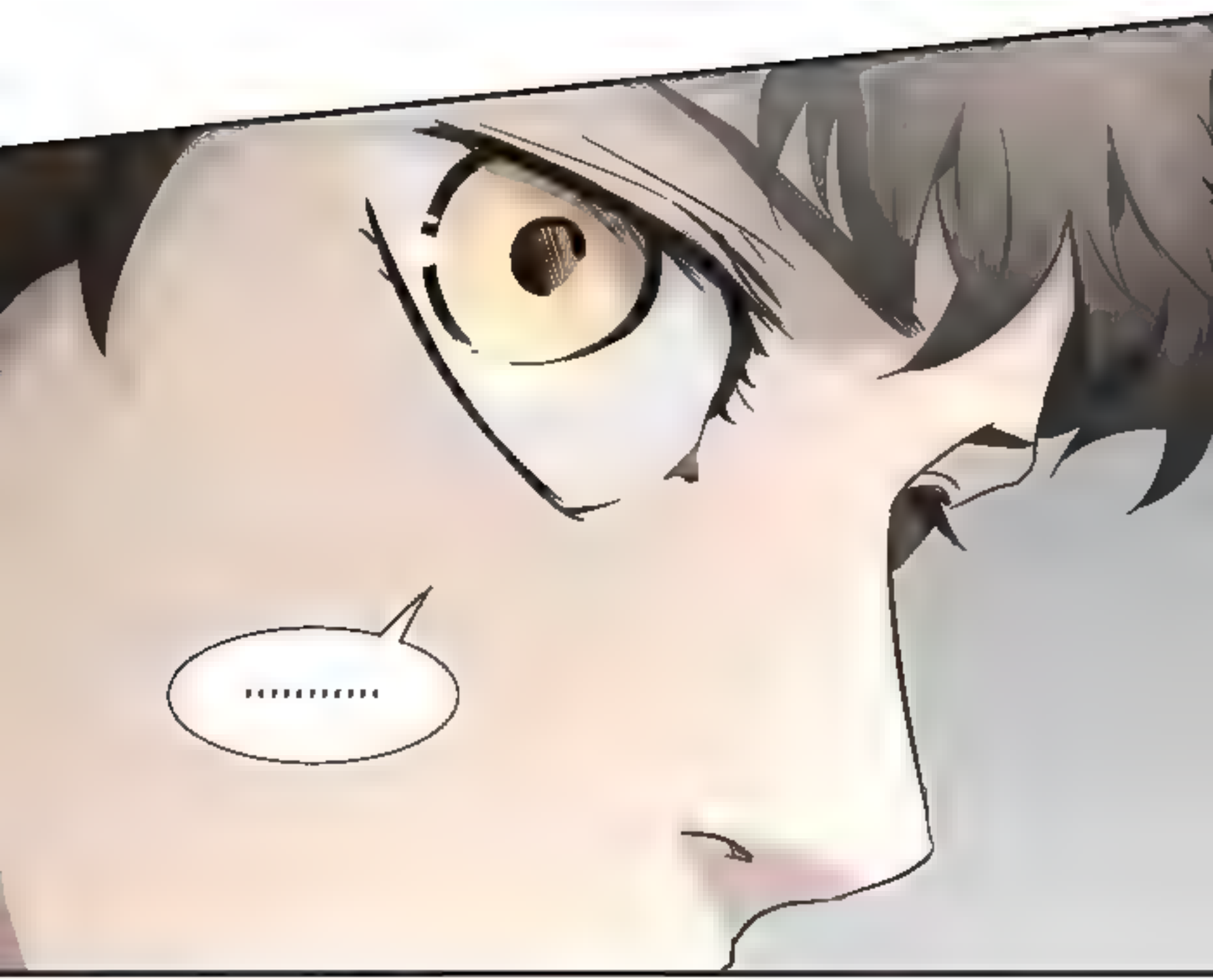
LET ME-
?
STEP-
STEP-

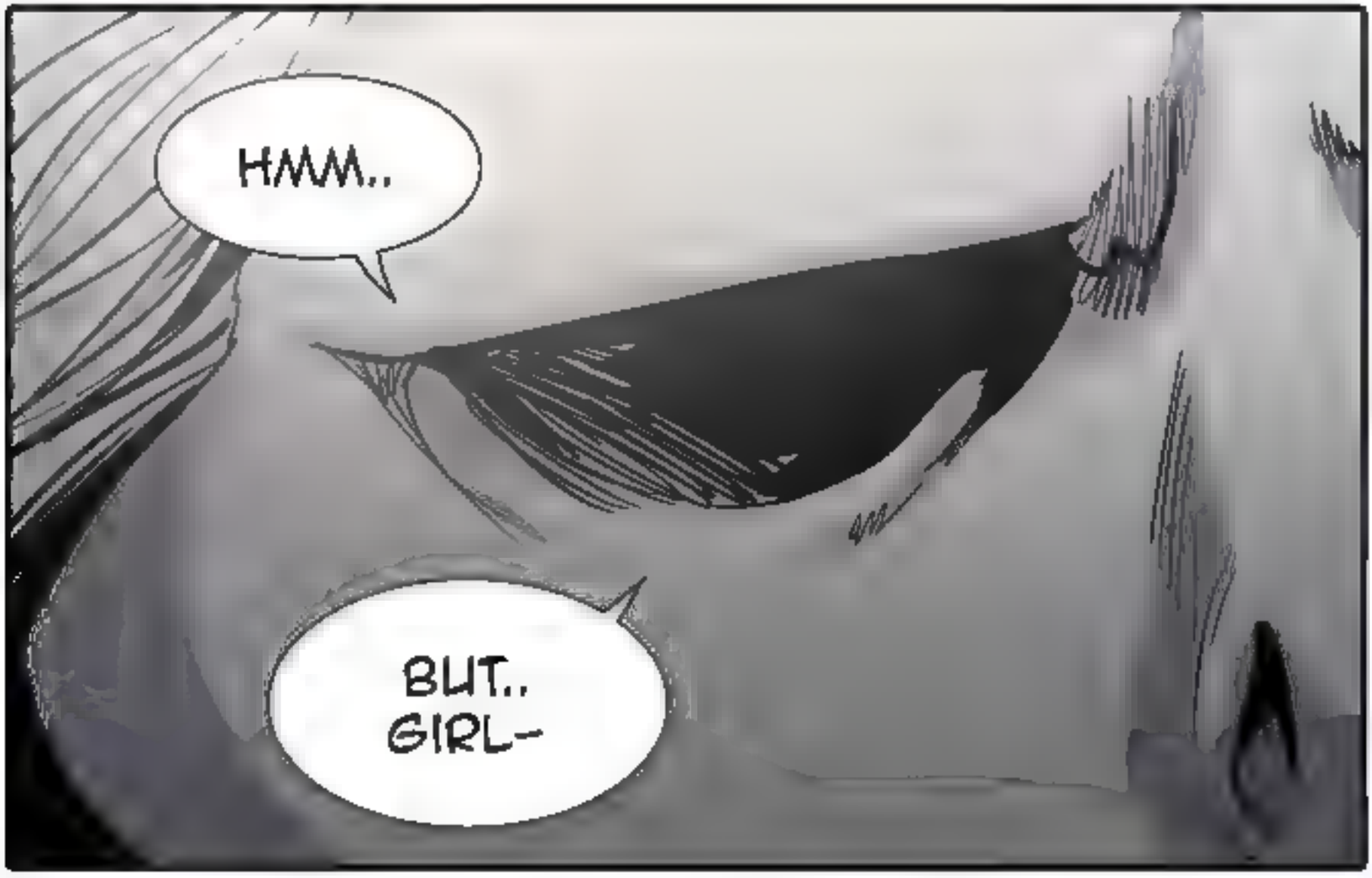
TAKE THAT TEST TOO.
RACHEL...?

WHISH
LET ME TAKE THE TEST TOO!
I'M WORTHY TOO!!

I'VE DREAMED OF WALKING THIS PATH FOR AGES!!
PLUS I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THAT GUY HERE!!
THIS GUY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A THIEF WHO IS TRYING TO STEAL SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME!!

SO-
I THINK THAT I'M FAR MORE WORTHY OF HAVING THE THORN!!

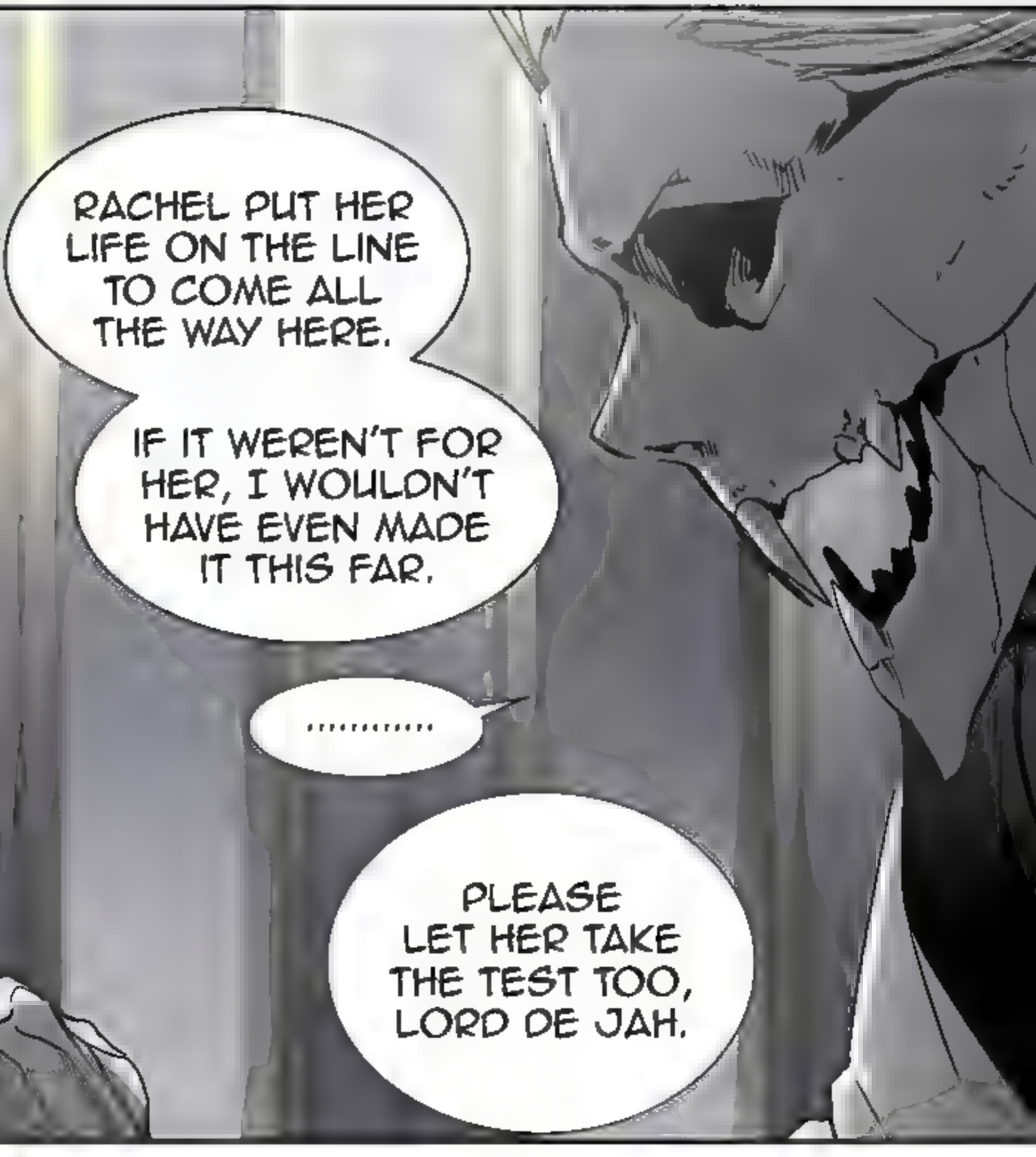


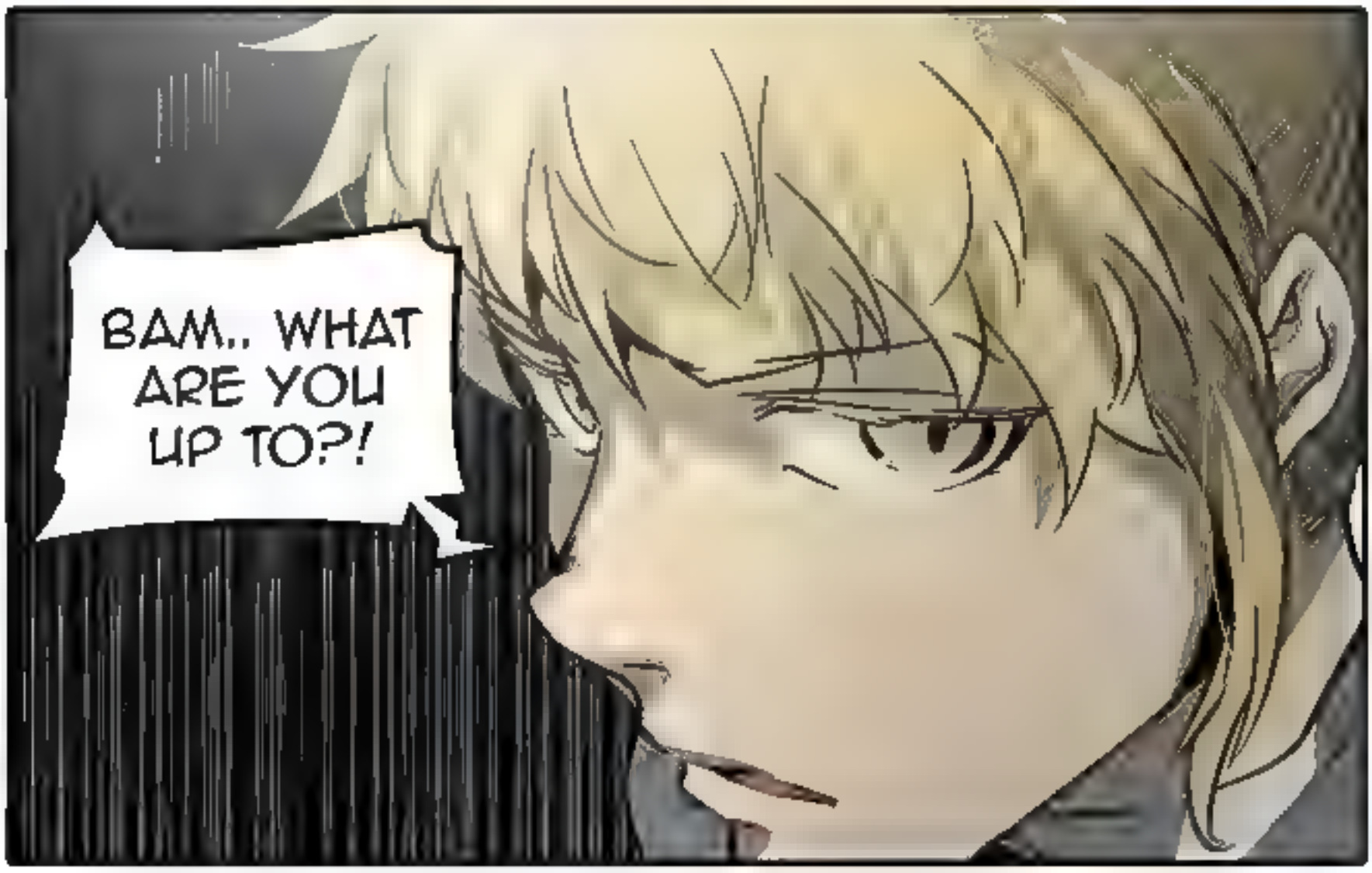

HMM..
BUT..
GIRL-

I SENSE AN EVIL ENERGY COMING FROM YOU.
!!
I MAY NOT HAVE EYES, BUT I CAN SENSE THE CHAOS EMANATING FROM YOUR SOUL.

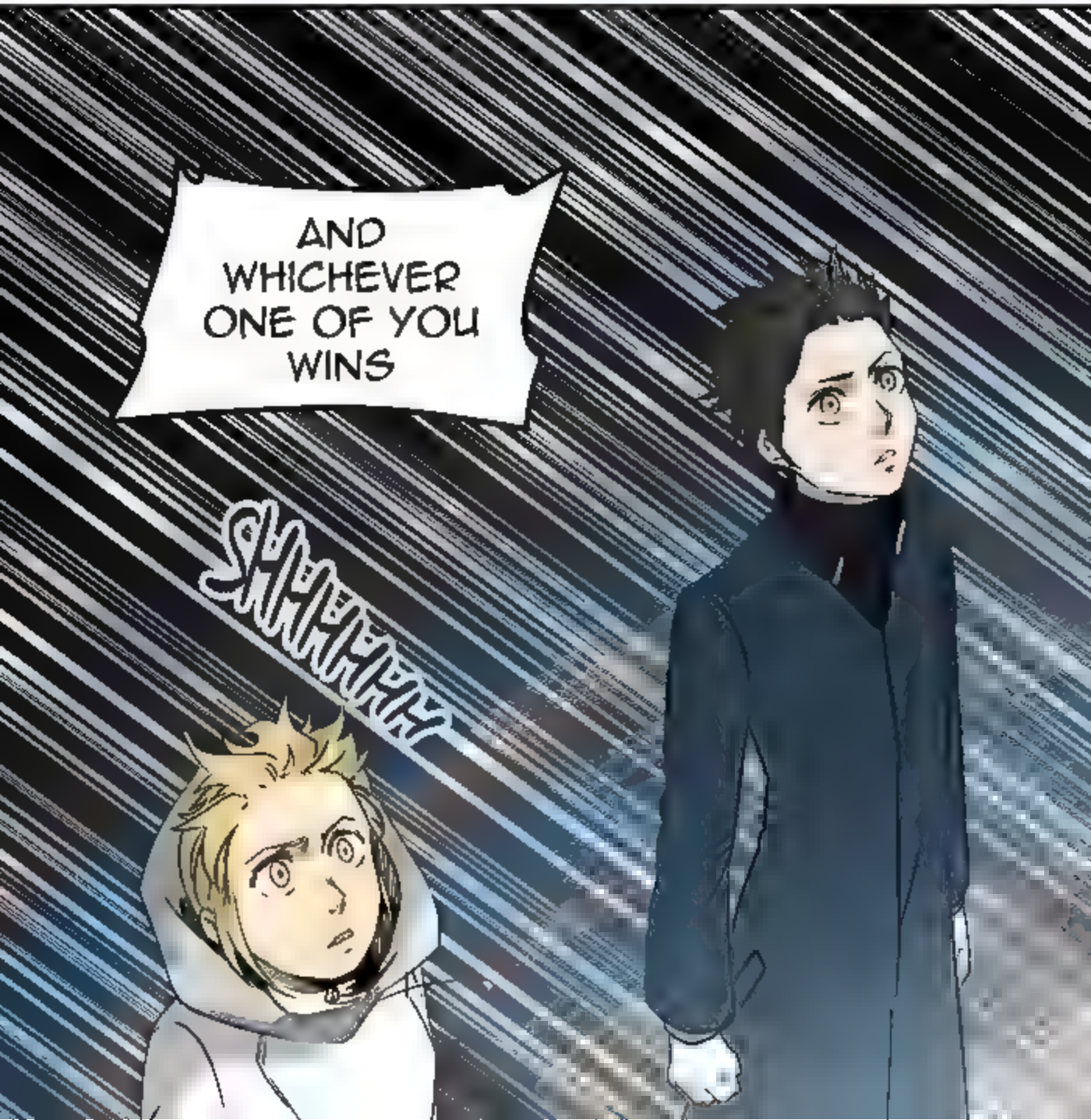
...I THINK THAT SHE DESERVES A CHANCE TOO, LORD DE JAH.

?!
BAM..?
SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE A CHANCE TOO.
LET HER AND ME BOTH TAKE THE TEST.


RACHEL PUT HER LIFE ON THE LINE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN MADE IT THIS FAR.
.....
PLEASE LET HER TAKE THE TEST TOO, LORD DE JAH.


BAM.. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!

FINE!! SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS THE TEST IF SHE'S NOT THE TRUE OWNER OF THE THORN ANYWAY!!
I'LL LET BOTH OF YOU TAKE THE TEST!!
HOP!!


AND WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU WINS
SHHHHH

WILL FIND OUT THE LOCATION OF THE THORN FRAGMENT!!
SHHHHHHH

THE TEST THAT I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU-!!

IS TO PUNISH
MY ENEMY
'HELL JOE'!!
HIS

AND RESCUE MY IMPRISONED BROTHER GRAND DE SAH!!

SHHH—
...WHAT?
SHHHHHH—

W..WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY..?!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK ME ON SUCH A TRICK...
HOW RIDICULOUS.
URGH...
UGH!!

TELL ME RIGHT NOW.
OTHERWISE, YOUR LIFE WILL BE DANGEROUS NEXT TIME.

WHERE IS JUE VIOLE GRACE?
URGH..! UGH!!